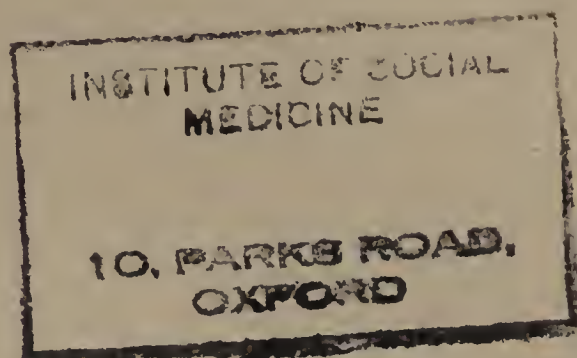


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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALLASEY



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

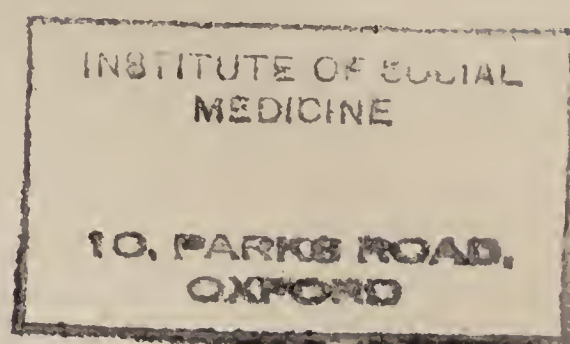
1947

RONALD B. BERRY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
*Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent of the Corporation
Infectious Diseases Hospital, Administrative Tuberculosis Officer,
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WILLMER BROS. & CO. LTD., PRINTERS, 62-68 CHESTER STREET
BIRKENHEAD

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

October, 1948.

*The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of Wallasey.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1947.

There was a further slight increase in the number of births and, unfortunately, a definite increase in the number of infant deaths and the infant mortality rate.

A large part of this latter increase was due to the deaths of infants from Gastro-Enteritis and Diarrhoea—the number being 28 compared with 12 in 1946. It seems a pity that it is not possible to have a period of hot weather in the summer without a rise in the number of cases of infantile diarrhoea.

There was also a definite increase in the number of deaths due to “Prematurity,” and it is obvious that there is room for considerable improvement and extension of our Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent during the year, but otherwise there is nothing to report with regard to Infectious Disease. Diphtheria has practically disappeared from the town—of 29 notifications during the year the disease was confirmed in eight only. If this really important advance in the control of disease is due largely to the Immunisation Campaign, and it is probable that this is so, and the people continue to accept Immunisation, then Diphtheria can be classed as a disease of the past.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors is dealt with very fully by Mr. Bate in the Report, and special reports have been furnished dealing with the sale of Food and Drink from Beach and Promenade sites, and also with the control of Ice Cream. We have a very long way to go before our methods of handling articles intended for human consumption can be considered satisfactory.

During the year schemes were drawn up under various sections of the National Health Service Act, 1946, but as these were distributed under separate cover they are not included in this Report.

I should like once again to acknowledge the work done by the staff throughout the year, and to thank the Committee for the support they have continued to give me.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD B. BERRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

THS DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

IN WALLASEY.

ALL LANE HOSPITAL—	Residents	17
	Non-Residents	3
HIGHFIELD MATERNITY HOSPITAL—	Residents	12
	Non-Residents	—
STORIA CENTRAL HOSPITAL—	Residents	123
	Non-Residents	8
WALLASEY COTTAGE HOSPITAL—	Residents	25
	Non-Residents	2
WASOWE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL—	Residents	2
	Non-Residents	3
OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—	Residents	3
	Non-Residents	1
	TOTAL	199

ELSEWHERE.

LIVERPOOL AND OTHER HOSPITALS—	Excluding Sanatoria)	69
	BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL	197
	COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL	13
	OTHER MENTAL HOSPITALS	2
	SANATORIA outside Wallasey	3
	TOTAL	284
DEATHS OUTSIDE WALLASEY—	Not in Public Institutions	29
	INWARD TRANSFERS	—
TRANSFERABLE DEATHS—	In Wallasey of Non-residents	34
	OUTWARD TRANSFERS	—
INQUESTS.	Residents (all Ages)	26
	Non-Residents (all ages)	9
	Legitimate Children—Under 1 year	2
	1 and Under 2 years	—
	2 years and over	—
	Illegitimate Children—under 1 year	1
	1 and under 2 years	—
	2 years and under 5 years	—

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR BELONGING TO WALLASEY.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
8	5	5	4	4	9	13	6	19	7	4	11	2	2	7	7	—	111

DEATHS OF ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS BELONGING TO WALLASEY.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9

CAUSES OF ILLEGITIMATE DEATHS UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE.

No.	Cause of Death	Age
1 (a)	Asphyxia due to overlaying (Misadventure) ..	2 weeks.
1 (a)	Broncho-pneumonia (b) Influenza (c) Diarrhoea ..	2 months.
1 (a)	Asthenia (b) Premature birth ..	2 days.
1 (a)	Cirrhosis of liver (b) Congenital obliteration of bile duct ..	7 months.
1 (a)	Toxaemia (b) Gastro-enteritis ..	4 months.
1 (a)	Asthenia (b) Premature birth (7 months) ..	2 hours.
1 (a)	Infantile convulsions ..	1 week.
1 (a)	Prematurity ..	3 weeks.
1 (a)	Gastro-enteritis (b) Congenital-syphilis ..	6 months.

Total Deaths in Institutions in the Borough whether of residents or non-residents.

Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 of population (excluding Diarrhoea)	...	...	...	...	...	0.06
Phthisis Death-rate per 1,000 of population						0.48
Respiratory Death-rate per 1,000 of population (excluding Phthisis)	...	...	...	...	...	1.64

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Diseases.....	382	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	149
Other Circulatory Diseases	16	Congenital Debility, Premature Births etc....	55
Cancer	183	Violent Deaths (including suicides).....	47
Respiratory Diseases—		Acute and Chronic Nephritis	38
Pneumonia	68		
Bronchitis.....	71		
Other.....	23		
Phthisis.....	47		

HOSPITAL SERVICES (within the Borough).

The following Hospitals and Institutions are PROVIDED by the LOCAL AUTHORITY within the Borough:—

1. Mill Lane Hospital : For Infectious Diseases (other than small pox).
2. Tuberculosis Sanatorium : One block, 22 beds, and one chalet with one bed, for advanced and observation cases, plus one block of 16 beds (from May, 1947).
3. Highfield Maternity Hospital: 21 Beds plus 13 in Annexe (from May, 1943).

In addition to the above there are the following Voluntary Hospitals within the Borough:—

4. VICTORIA CENTRAL HOSPITAL: General Hospital with 135 Beds (including 18 for children). There is an out-patient department. There is also a charitable Dispensary on the same premises.
5. WALLASEY COTTAGE HOSPITAL: General Hospital with 37 beds, which are used for men, women and children as necessity arises. This Hospital also has an out-patient department.
6. LIVERPOOL OPEN-AIR HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN LEASOWE: Orthopaedic Hospital with 230 beds (192 for children and 38 for adult females). Patients are admitted to this Hospital from various parts of the country. The Corporation has ten beds in this Hospital on terms.

HOSPITAL SERVICES (Outside the Borough).

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL: 125 beds are available at this Institution for sick, maternity and mental cases.

Owing to shortage of Staff the work at this hospital has been carried on under great difficulty and it has not been possible to admit many aged and infirm patients who would normally have been treated at this hospital.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

Admissions to:—

B'head Institution	..	175	Eastham House	..	..	19
B'head Municipal Hospital	635		County Mental Hospital	..		51

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The number of unemployed persons in the Borough in January, 1947, was 1878, and in December, 1619 as compared with 1052 and 1789 respectively in January and December, 1946.

The following amounts were expended on Unemployment, etc. Benefit by the Wallasey Employment Exchange :—

	1946.	1947.
Agricultural Benefit	£139 0 0	£219 0 0
General Scheme Benefit	£91,934 0 0	£98,796 0 0
Unemployment Assistance Allowances	£7,417 0 0	£7,943 0 0

In addition the Public Assistance Committee expended £16,897 5s. 8d. on outdoor relief.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

ANTE-NATAL.

The Clinics, at which a woman doctor is in attendance, are held on the following days :—

NEW STREET—Monday, 2-0—4-0 p.m.

„ „ —Tuesday and Thursday, 10-0—12 noon.

OAKENHOLT ROAD, MORETON—Wednesday, 10-30—12 noon.

Special cases are referred from these Clinics to the Consultant Obstetrician who visits Highfield Maternity Hospital and his services are available whenever required.

The following figures summarise the work done at the Antenatal and at the Post-natal Clinics during the year :—

ANTE-NATAL.

Expectant mothers on books at January 1st	..	...	147
New cases during the year	...	...	591
Names on books at December 31st	...	...	144
Attendances of Expectant Mothers	...	...	2,810
No. of Expectant Mothers attending Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	121
„ Attendances	...	...	171
First-visits to homes of Expectant Mothers	...	...	1,159
Revisits do. do. do.	...	...	161

MATERNITY EMERGENCY UNIT.

The Corporation has an arrangement with the Liverpool Maternity Hospital for the use in Wallasey of the Maternity Unit for dealing with difficult domiciliary obstetric emergencies.

It has not been necessary to call upon the services of the Maternity Unit.

MIDWIVES ACT.

9 Midwives notified their intention to practise in the Borough during the year (excluding those at the Corporation Maternity Hospital and seven Municipal Midwives).

During 1947 the seven Municipal Midwives attended 590 cases, of these, 213 were attended as maternity Nurses.

Midwives in private practice attended 184 cases, of which 84 were attended as maternity nurses.

The following is a list of the causes for which Medical help was sought :—

CONDITION OF MOTHER.

	Private M'wives	M'cipal M'wives
Mastitis	—	3
Protracted Labour	2	26
Adherent placenta	—	2
Retained membranes	—	2
Post-partum haem	—	6
Ante-partum haem	—	3
Laceration of perineum	10	36
Uterine inertia	2	4
Foetal distress	—	1
Breech	1	4
Pyrexia	—	1
Rise of temperature	1	2
Cardiac Obstetric Shock	1	—
Albuminuria Malpresentation	1	2
Various other causes	5	10
Placenta Praeva	—	1

CONDITION OF CHILD.

Stillborn	—	2
Jaundice	—	2
Prematurity	2	2
Discharging eyes	1	14
Spina bifida	—	1
Asphyxia	—	2
Deformity	—	1
Other conditions	1	5
Septic Spots	—	2

HIGHFIELD MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The accommodation at this hospital was again in great demand and many requests for admission had to be refused.

During the year 617 cases were admitted, as follows:—

	Midwives' Cases	Doctors' Cases	Total
Primiparae	74	293	367
Multiparae	88	162	250
	<hr/> 162	<hr/> 455	<hr/> 617

In order to deal with the very great demand for institution beds, arrangements were made in May, 1943, to open the repaired half of the damaged Ward at Mill Lane Hospital as a Maternity

Ward with twelve to thirteen beds. Patients are transferred to this Ward after confinement according to the accommodation in the Maternity Hospital. This extra provision has made it possible to book sixty cases per month. Dealing with this number has, however, made very heavy demands on the Labour Ward and the trained staff of the Hospital.

	In Hosp. Jan. 1947	No. of Admis- sions 1947	Confinement 1947	No. of Children	Dis- charged Undelivered	Admit- ted after 'C'ment	Maternal Deaths	Remain- ing Dec. 31st 1947
Doctors' cases	12	455	446	457	6	3	0	10
Midwives cases	4	162	157	159	3	2	0	5

	Doctors' cases.	Midwives' cases	Total
Stillbirths ...	12	0	12
Infant Deaths ...	9	3	12
Twins ..	11	2	13
Premature Birth ..	12	9	21
Delayed Labour ...	10	3	13
Breech Presentations ...	23	5	28
Toxaemia of Pregnancy ...	12	0	12
Forceps ...	42	4	46
Episiotomies ...	48	1	49
Perineal Repairs ...	187	41	228
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	3	5
Rise of Temperature ...	19	13	32

Puerperal Pyrexia 5.—Mastitis 3, Bronchitis 1, Influenza 1.

Infant Deaths 12.

Operations by Consulting Obstetrician :—Caesarean 2, Forceps 4, Version 1, Manual Removal of Placenta 5, Blood or Plasma Transfusions 3.

Owing to Staff shortages the following cases were transferred to Birkenhead Municipal Hospital for probable Caesarian Sections: Delayed Labour 2, A.P.H. 1, Breech and Extended Legs 1.

Also 1 Jaundice, 1 Appendicitis, 1 Puerperal Pyrexia.

One baby transferred to Walton Hospital—Prematurity.

One baby transferred to Birkenhead Children's Hospital—Intestinal Obstruction.

Complications :—

Ante-Natal :—

A.P.H.	..	..	6	Toxaemia	..	..	12
Pulm. T.B.	..	..	1	Epilepsy	..	..	1

Post-Natal :—

MOTHER.

Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	5	Rise of Temperature	..	..	32
P.P.H.	..	..	13	Retained Products	..	..	12
Mastitis	..	..	8	Obstetric Shock	..	..	1
Phlebitis	..	..	2	Bronchitis	..	..	3
Jaundice	..	..	1	Appendicitis	..	..	1
Hydrammos or Uterine				Varicose Ulcer	..	..	1
Fibroid	..	..	1				

CHILD.

Asphyxia Pallida ..	4	Shock	4
Facial Paralysis ..	4	Spina Bifida ..	1
Phimosis	9	Cong. Malformations ..	7
Sticky Eyes ..	8	Fractures	2
Pemphigus	1	Intestinal Obstruction ..	1
Otorrhoea	1		

Amongst Stillbirths :— 2 Complicated Breech Presentations.
 3 Macerated (1 Premature). 1 Eclampsia (Forceps).
 In 2 cases, 1 child of twin deliveries.

In 162 Midwives' cases, Doctors were called in for 61.

Torn Perineum	35	Twins	1
Breech Presentation ..	3	A.P.H.	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	Rise of Temperature ..	3
Retained Products ..	3	Prematurity	1
Asphyxia Pallida ..	1	" Sticky Eyes " ..	2
Mastitis	3	Delayed Labour ..	3
Fractured Humerus (baby)	1	Otorrhoea (baby) ..	1
Malpresentation	1		

MATERNITY CASES ADMITTED TO BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL.

The Corporation made a declaration under Section 5 of the Local Government Act, 1929, to the effect that as and from 1st October, 1939, all assistance granted by the Council under the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts, as amended by the Public Health Act, 1936, be granted by virtue of those Acts and not by way of Poor Law Relief. During the year 134 cases were admitted to the Birkenhead Municipal Hospital under this arrangement.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

There were seven notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia during the year, none of which proved fatal.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One Maternal Death was registered during the year, the cause of which was Obstetric Shock. This death occurred in Birkenhead.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Eight of the Health Visitors are qualified to treat, by douching, the eyes of children suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case was notified during the year but was found not to be Ophthalmia.

CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinics at which a doctor attends on each occasion, are held in the afternoon of the following days :—

New Street Centre—Tuesdays. Field Road—Thursdays.
Wallasey Village—Wednesdays Oakenholt Rd., Moreton—Tues
Trinity Hall, Liscard—Thursdays.

The number of attendances during the year was :—

Children under one year of age ..	New Street 4,222	Moreton 2,846	New Brighton 4,630	Wallasey Village 4,350	*Trinity Hall Liscard 845	Totals 16,893
Children between one and five yrs...	191	124	500	370	133	1,318

*From 18th September, 1947.

SUMMARY OF VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS.

First visits and revisits to Infants under one year of age	...	8,190
Visits and revisits to Children one to five years of age	...	6,132
Total visits and revisits to children under one and up to five years of age for any purpose whatsoever, including	397	
visits and revisits re Minor Infections	...	14,719
Visits re notified Infectious Diseases	...	780
„ Infant Life Protection	...	38
„ and re-visits to expectant mothers	...	1,310

PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS AND GOOD HEALTH

(Min. of Health Circular 2831)

Health Visitors impress on mothers and expectant mothers the importance of cleanliness and freedom from vermin, and concentrate largely on the homes which they know to be the least satisfactory in this respect.

Fine tooth combs are supplied on loan, and Lethane hair oil is available for cases needing treatment.

Posters dealing with vermin, issued by the Central Council for Health Education, are exhibited in various parts of the Borough.

NUTRITION.

NATIONAL DRIED MILK, FRUIT JUICES, Etc.

Particulars of National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, and Fruit Juices distributed to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under five years of age during 1947 are as follows :—

NATIONAL DRIED MILK.	1946.	1947.
Number of packets given free	1,599	1,340
„ „ sold at reduced rates	30,785	53,283

COD LIVER OIL, FRUIT JUICES, ETC.		1946	1947
Number of bottles of Cod Liver Oil	...	16,978	24,989
„ „ Fruit Juices	...	107,383	107,587
„ „ Vitamin Capsules	...	2,833	5,791

DRIED MILK (OTHER THAN NATIONAL DRIED MILK).

Sold lb. Packets, 29,657 realising ... £3,046 9s. 9d.

In addition, 238 bottles of Cod Liver Oil and 1,854 bottles of Fruit Juices and 18 tins of National Dried Milk were issued for the use of children in local hospitals, day nurseries, etc.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

No. of persons who were receiving children for reward at Jan. 1st	11
do. on Register at December 31st	8
No. of children under 9 years on Register at Jan. 1st	13
do. Deaths of children during the year	—
do. Inquests on children dealt with under the Act	—
do. Children on Register at December 31st	13
do. Visits during the year	102
Health Visitors who are Infant Protection Visitors	10

NURSERY PROVISION FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE.

There are three Day Nurseries in the Borough for children under five, all of the premises being one-storyed, pre-cast buildings previously used as War-time Day Nurseries.

The nurseries are not open on Sundays. In addition to being full, each nursery has a waiting list.

The following table shows the number of places and average number of children attending in December, 1947 :—

Nursery	Number of Places	AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCES			
		<i>Exc. Saturdays</i>		<i>For month as a whole</i>	
		0—2's	2—5's	0—2's	2—5's
Eastway	30	8	16	8	14
Central Park	50	14	36	13	35
Oakdale	50	7	41	7	37

INFANT MORTALITY, 1947.

Nett Deaths from Stated Causes in weeks and months under one year of age

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	4 Weeks and under 3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—Certified	42	9	2	4	57	16	20	14	4	111
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	2	4	5	2	2	15
{ Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
{ Gastro-enteritis	—	1	—	1	2	7	11	5	2	27
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suffocation-overlying	1	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	4
Injury at birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	4	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
Congenital Malformations	4	3	—	1	8	1	—	1	—	10
Premature Birth ..	25	2	1	2	30	—	—	—	—	30
{ Atrophy, Debility, ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
{ Marasmus	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Other Causes	3	1	—	—	4	—	1	3	—	8
Totals.....	42	9	2	4	57	16	20	14	4	111

INFANT MORTALITY, 1947.

INFANT MORTALITY IN THE WARDS.

Ward		Births	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 Births
New Brighton	1	111	8	72.1
Upper Brighton	2	124	5	40.3
North Liscard	3	133	5	37.6
South Liscard	4	145	4	27.6
North Egremont	5	154	9	58.4
South Egremont	6	163	13	79.7
North Seacombe	7	169	6	35.5
South Seacombe	8	147	19	129.2
Somerville	9	157	7	44.6
Poulton	10	167	4	23.9
Marlowe	11	114	11	96.5
St. Hilary	12	91	2	20.9
Warren	13	91	2	20.9
Wallasey	14	89	2	22.5
Leasowe	15	128	7	54.7
Moreton	16	161	7	43.4
Saughall Massie	17	8	—	—
		2,152	111	51.11

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 179/44, dated December, 1944, which authorised the setting up of a service of Domestic Helps, a Supervisor was appointed and the first Help was sent out on 2nd April, 1945.

From that date the demand for the service has grown steadily. At the outset there were only two helpers on the books, but by the end of 1947 this number had increased to 23.

The service of Home Helps, in connection with Maternity cases is operated in conjunction with the Domestic Help Service.

Charges for the services of Helps are assessed on a scale based on T. B. allowances payable under Memo. 266/T.

That the inauguration of this Service has filled a long-felt need in the Borough is borne out by the continued increase in the number of hours worked by Helpers during 1947, i.e., 26,438, as compared with 11,101 for nine months April-December, 1945.

The following figures show the work carried out under both Schemes during 1947.

	<i>Domestic Helps</i>	<i>Home Helps</i>	<i>Total</i>
Applications received	265	84	349
Cases accepted and booked ..	255	80	335
Cases not accepted (outside scope of Scheme or no help available)	10	4	14
Cases to which help sent	279	46	325
Hours worked by Helpers ..	22,557	3,881	26,438

In addition to the above Scheme, an annual grant of £20 is made to the Women's Service Bureau, Liverpool, who provide Home Helps principally in cases where a residential Help is desirable.

During the year, Home Helps were supplied by the Women's Service Bureau to several Wallasey cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

On the formation of the National Fire Service the responsibility of maintaining an ambulance service for accidents, etc. was transferred from the Watch Committee to the Health Committee.

The number of cases dealt with during 1947 was as follows :—

Street, works and other accidents	...	...	597
Cases of sudden illness	...	...	124
Private cases	...	...	2,263
Public Assistance cases	...	...	598
Mortuary Van cases	...	...	60
Public Health Dept. cases	...	...	212
Total	...	...	3,854

CANCER ACT, 1939.

This Act places a duty on County Borough Councils to make arrangements to ensure that the facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Cancer are adequate and available to all who are, or are suspected to be, suffering from Cancer.

The arrangements must include facilities for expert diagnosis and for adequate and efficient treatment both by surgery and by radiotherapy, and a follow-up Scheme with the necessary statistical records.

Local Authorities are also asked to collaborate with such existing organisations already providing facilities, either wholly or partially.

The Council's Interim Proposals for the provision of these facilities were approved by the Ministry of Health on the 23rd October, 1944, and the arrangements came into operation on the 1st January, 1945. Under these proposals the Council became one of the constituent members of the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation, and contributes to the costs of the administration of the Scheme on a population basis. The Council is also responsible for the cost of both in-patient and out-patient treatment in approved Hospitals. The following expenditure was incurred during 1947 :—

In-patient Treatment	..	£2,800
Out-patient Treatment	..	£302
Other expenditure	.. ..	£26
		<hr/>
		£3,128
Payments to Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation	..	613
		<hr/>
Total	..	<u>£3,741</u>

This expenditure ranks for grant under Section 2 of the Cancer Act, 1939.

In discussing the results of treatment of Cancer during the period 1944-1947, the Director of Radiotherapeutic Services of the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation concludes by saying :

“ In general, the present position would appear to be that, of all patients referred for treatment, approximately one third are beyond effective treatment ; one third are suitable for palliation only, and the remaining third comprises the early group in which radical curative treatment is possible. Of this latter group, rather more than two-thirds remain alive three years after the commencement of treatment.

“ It is probable that an even greater measure of success could be achieved by the development of a live appreciation, both by the patient and the doctor, of the need for the earliest possible diagnosis and for the earliest possible treatment of malignant disease.”

The following is an analysis of Wallasey cases registered in 1947 by the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation :

<i>Skin</i>	<i>Mouth, Throat and Lip</i>	<i>Breast</i>	<i>Lung</i>	<i>Female Reprod. Organs</i>	<i>G.I. Tract</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
18	12	37	23	22	38	22	172

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (including Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED IN WALLASEY DURING 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Notifi- cations	Cases notified at ages													Ag ki
		0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	8	—	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	29	1	—	1	—	3	8	6	4	4	2	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	9	5	—	
Scarlet Fever	203	—	—	9	9	15	115	35	12	3	—	5	—	—	
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	7	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	19	1	—	1	1	1	3	—	1	5	2	3	1	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	125	—	2	—	1	—	4	4	18	52	19	23	2	—	
Other forms of Tuber- culosis	18	—	1	1	2	2	5	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	
Measles	792	28	71	74	106	84	384	21	6	13	3	1	—	—	
Whooping Cough	242	33	30	40	40	27	63	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Polio-Encephalitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS.....	1,475	64	105	128	160	132	590	75	46	93	29	41	8	—	

IMMUNISATION.

During the year, 1,028 children received the full course of Immunisation treatment against Diphtheria.

Up to 26th March, 1947, after which date the tests were discontinued, 195 children who had been immunised were Schick-tested. Of these, 8 children, or 4.1 per cent., proved positive, and 7 were re-immunised.

In addition, 624 children who had received the full course five years ago were given a reinforcing dose.

The following table shows the number of children immunised each year from 1935 :

PUBLIC HEALTH (SMALLPOX PREVENTION) REGULATIONS, 1917.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

VACCINATION.

Statement of Vaccination for year ending 31st December, 1946 :

Births (returned in Birth List Sheets)	..	..	..	1,580
Successfully vaccinated	..	..	..	713
Insusceptible	..	..	..	12
Had Smallpox	..	..	..	—
Died unvaccinated	..	..	..	51
Postponed by Medical Authority	..	..	..	15
Certificates of Exemption (Conscientious objection)	..	..	..	212
Removals certified	..	..	..	6
Removals not found and not accounted for	..	..	..	24
Vaccinations at Clinics	..	..	..	1,601
Re-inspections at Clinics	..	..	..	907

DIPHTHERIA.

29 notifications were received, but in 28 cases admitted to hospital the diagnosis was not confirmed in 21.

SCARLET FEVER.

203 cases were notified during the year, but 12 cases out of 118 admitted to hospital were re-diagnosed after admission.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

205 cases were notified, and 37 cases otherwise reported. Four patients died.

Of 18 cases admitted to hospital, four died. One, aged 2½ years, was moribund on admission, and died in a few minutes. The other three were under one year.

Whooping Cough is a very serious disease, particularly in very young children, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory method of immunisation will soon be forthcoming.

MEASLES.

Measles has again been very prevalent, 792 cases coming to the knowledge of the Department—655 notified and 137 otherwise reported.

GASTRO-ENTERITIS OF INFANTS.

There were 30 deaths registered as due to this disease, (28 under one year of age) including inward transfers.

This is a condition that should not occur, being due in practically all cases to infection introduced by some article of diet, and it is only by improved hygiene in the home, particularly in the handling and care of food, that this disease can be prevented.

Eleven cases were admitted to Mill Lane Hospital, with two deaths—in both cases death taking place within a few hours of admission.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis).

(7 notifications).

Seven cases were admitted to hospital. Of these one died, and another, which was transferred to Fazackerley Hospital soon after admission, died at that Hospital.

All cases were seen by Mr. H. Davies (Orthopaedic Surgeon), and arrangements were made for their continued treatment after discharge from hospital.

In one case there was complete recovery before discharge.

In June, 1948, one case, aged 23 years, had returned to work as a shorthand typist. She reported slight weakness in right leg, giving rise to scarcely perceptible limp. She was able to cycle without difficulty. (Admitted to hospital 20/8/47.)

One case, aged 37 years, working as an office clerk, attends hospital for out-patient treatment. Still wearing appliance. (Admitted to hospital 23/9/47.)

One case, aged 5½ years, wears leg-iron and attends hospital for out-patient treatment. Has swimming lessons. Able to attend school. (Admitted to hospital 14/10/47).

One case, aged 5 years, right leg still in splints and left leg in iron. Has to be carried about. Is taken to Hospital Out-patient Department daily for treatment. (Admitted to Hospital 29/9/47.)

SCABIES.

Owing to the increase in the number of cases of Scabies, a treatment centre was opened in May, 1941, at the New Street Clinic, and has continued daily ever since. 228 cases were treated during the year, and 36 patients were re-examined. Three of these were found to require further treatment.

DISINFECTION.

Visits to houses <i>re</i> disinfections	..	..	..	..	216
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	..	204
Books from Public, Private, or School Libraries disinfected					227
Articles disinfected	..	..	..	..	3,800
Beds and bedding disinfected	..	..	..	..	418

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The accompanying table gives particulars of the cases admitted to Mill Lane Infectious Diseases Hospital during 1947 :—

	In Hospital 1st Jan. 1947	Ad- mitted 1947	Dis- charged	Died	In Hospital 31st Dec. 1947	
Scarlet Fever	14	118	104	2	26	
Diphtheria	3	8*	10	1*	—	*sent in as C. S. M. also Measles
Tonsillitis	1	24	25	—	—	2 sent in as S. F. 21 sent in as Diph. 1 sent in as Poliomyelitis
Measles	—	32	32	—	—	
Rubella	1	8	9	—	—	7 sent in as S. F. 1 sent in as Measles
Leprosy	—	1	—	—	1	
Whooping Cough ..	—	18	14	4	—	
Ac. Ant. Polio. ..	—	7	6*	1	—	*1 transferred to Fazack. and died
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	12	10	2	—	5 cases sent in as Dysentery 1 sent in as C. S. M. 1 sent in as Typhoid
Erysipelas	—	4	4	—	—	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	
Mumps	—	7	7	—	—	1 sent in as Diph.
Pemphigus Neon. ..	—	1	1	—	—	Also Mother
Bronchitis	—	1	1	—	—	Sent in as Measles
Dentition	—	1	1	—	—	Sent in as Gastro Enteritis
Ac. Pheum.	—	1	1	—	—	Sent in as Polio.
Toxic Synovitis R. Hip	—	1	1	—	—	
Puerp. Septocaemia ..	—	1	1	—	—	
Puerp. Mastitis	—	1	1	—	—	
Abcess of Neck	—	2	2	—	—	Sent in as Mumps
Urticaria	—	2	2	—	—	Sent in as C. P.
Cellulitis of Neck ..	—	1	1	—	—	Sent in as Diph.
Laryng. Stridulus ..	—	1	—	1	—	Sent in as Diph. (also a Mongol)
Sadamina	—	1	1	—	—	1 sent in as S.F.
Nil disease	—	7	7	—	—	1 sent in as Mumps 1 sent in as Whoop- ing Cough 1 sent in as Measles 2 sent in as Gastro Enteritis 2 sent in as S.F.
Mother and Baby ..	—	1	1	—	—	
	19	262	243	11	27	

Diphtheria.

The exceedingly small number of cases admitted to Hospital—eight—suggests that the immunisation campaign is producing definite results.

The one case that died was not immunised.

In four of the eight cases there was a record of immunisation.

Scarlet Fever.

The cases were generally mild. Two cases died—one was a case of Mongolianism, and the cause of death in the other was Miliary Tuberculosis.

The following were the main complications :—

Otorrhoea	13	Double Otorrhoea ..	3
Toxic Myocarditis ..	1	Diaphragmatic Pleurisy and Acute Nephritis	1
Mastoiditis	1	T.B. Elbow (O.A.) ..	1
Chicken Pox	3	Mumps	1

Consultations.

Dr. R. J. Martin	34	Dr. Cunningham	6
------------------------	----	----------------------	---

Operations.

Paracentesis of Drum ..	1	Removal of Adenoids ..	1
		Mastoidectomy	1

Table showing the number of cases admitted to Mill Lane Infectious Diseases Hospital
from other Authorities and Hospitals during 1947

Name of Authority or Hospital	Infantile Paralysis	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Mumps	Erysipelas	Food Rash	Total
Victoria Central Hospital, Wallasey ..	—	—	—	6	—	2	—	—	8
Wallasey Cottage Hospital, Wallasey ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	3
City of Chester	1	—	2	6	3	—	1	—	13
County Borough of Birkenhead ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wirral Joint Isolation Hospital, Clatterbridge	1	—	2	7	1	1	—	—	12
Total ..	2	1	6	20	4	3	2	1	39

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year the work of the dispensary has continued to increase. The attendances increased by 739 to 2,960 (Males 1,238, Females 1,155, Children 567). In addition, there were 110 attendances by children on the Malnutrition Register. The number of new cases attending was 894, of which 134 cases were cases of Tuberculosis, making the total on the register 480.

Great efforts have always been made by the Health Visitors to ensure that contacts are examined, and over the past ten years 93 per cent. of all contacts have been examined.

During the past year 325 contacts were seen (182 adults, 143 children). Of these, 8 adults and 2 children were found to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 14 are still under observation. No cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were found.

The number of chest X-rays taken was 1,697, plus 56 orthopaedic—883 more chest examinations, and 28 more orthopaedic than in 1947. The X-ray plant is not standing up to the increased pressure of work in the dispensary.

Tuberculin skin tests were performed on 96 children, 72 were contacts of known cases, and 32 showed a positive reaction. Of the 24 non-contacts, 6 showed a positive reaction. Culture of the sputum is now undertaken at the dispensary, and this has resulted in more cases placed on the register being in the "B" Category under the Ministry of Health classification—269 specimens were examined, and 67 were found to contain Tubercle bacilli.

Home visits of the Tuberculosis Officer at the request of the Medical Practitioners numbered 40.

Pneumothorax refills are now given in the dispensary under X-ray control. The number of refills totalled 817 (468 males, 349 females)—387 more than in 1946, plus 134 pneumoperitoneum refills (120 males, 14 females).

This latter form of treatment is being applied more often. X-ray screening totalled 495.

DISPENSARY REGISTER.

	1947	1946	1945	1944
No. of Tuberculous cases on Register, 31st December ..	480	396	442	429
No. of new cases attended Dispensary	894	525	521	620
Diagnosed as suffering from Tuberculosis	134	68	80	70
Diagnosed as suffering from Malnutrition	—	2	—	5
Sent by General Practitioners ..	369	295	304	305
Contacts	315	141	174	142
Sent by Services (H.M.F.) ..	17	34	16	34
Sent by School Medical Officer ..	34	20	11	58

SOURCE OF NOTIFICATION.

	<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>	
	1947	1946	1947	1946
Notified by General Practitioners	85	45	5	6
„ „ Tuberculosis Officer ..	11	4	7	—
„ „ H.M.F. and Hospitals	29	28	6	4

NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 125 notifications (75 male, 50 female), including 15 from H.M.F. plus 17 transfers from other areas, and 7 from Death Returns—increase of 48 over 1946.

NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 18 notifications (8 male, 10 female), plus 5 transfers from other areas and 1 from Death Returns.

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Bones 3, Glands of Neck 9, Abdomen 3, Other Organs 3.

DEATHS.

<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</i>	1947	1946	1945
Number of deaths	26.27	55	47
Cases died within two years of notification	15	31	30
Non-notified deaths	5	8	8
Total ...	46.47	94	85
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>	1947		
No. of deaths	1		
Died within two years of notification ..	2		
Non-notified deaths	4		

HOUSING.

Of the 125 Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis :

- 69 slept in separate bed and room.
- 11 slept in separate bed, but shared room.
- 33 shared bed and room (chiefly married couples).
- 4 left district before visit.
- 3 not visited.
- 1 notified by the County Mental Hospital.
- 2 foreign seamen.
- 2 since cancelled.

TREATMENT AND INSTITUTIONS.

The number of beds available has been increased considerably. The block at Mill Lane Hospital has been increased by 16 beds, making a total of 38. Operative treatment, adhesion sections and phrenic crushes, are now performed here. 30 Artificial Pneumothorax and 3 Pneumoperitoneums were induced during the year.

Beds in Cheshire Joint Sanatorium have been increased by three to 19. These beds are used mainly for cases needing extensive operations.

Cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been treated with high potency vitamin-D with some favourable results. In addition, excellent results in discharging sinuses have resulted from local treatment with Promanide, an American drug. There has been no call for Streptomycin. All four cases of Tuberculous Meningitis were posthumous notifications. The discovery of this compound, offering some hope of recovery, has made earlier diagnosis of meningitis imperative.

MILL LANE HOSPITAL.

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Remaining 1st January, 1947 ..	21	—	21
Admitted during 1947	82	1	83
Discharged during 1947	60	—	60
Fatal during 1947	9	—	9
Remaining 31st December, 1947	34	1	35

RESULTS

Patients discharged—" Much improved "	..	..	11
" Improved "	..	..	39
" No material improvement "	..	..	10
Of the 60 discharges : Working full time	..	..	20
Unfit for work	..	..	9
Working part-time	..	..	9
Left the district	..	..	3
Re-admitted to hospital	..	..	3
Transferred to Cheshire Jt. Sanatorium	..	..	12
Since died	..	..	4

CHESHIRE JOINT SANATORIUM

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Remaining 1st January, 1947 ..	7	8	15
Admitted during	12	14	26
Discharged	12	12	24
Fatal	—	1	1
Remaining 31st December, 1947 ..	7	9	16
Of the 24 discharges : Left the district	..	..	3
Working full time	..	..	11
Working part-time	..	..	3
Re-admitted to Cheshire Jt. Sanatorium	..	..	1
Unfit for work	..	..	1
Transferred to Mill Lane Sanatorium	..	..	5

LEASOWE OPEN-AIR HOSPITAL.

	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Remaining 1st January, 1947 ..	2	4	6
Admitted during year	2	4	6
Discharged during year	2	2	4
Fatal during year	—	1	1
Remaining 31st December, 1947 ..	2	5	7
Of the 4 discharges : Working full-time	..	..	2
Working part-time	..	..	1
At school	..	..	1

BIRKENHEAD MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL.

Remaining 1st January, 1947	..	..	..	..	7
Admitted during year	..	..	..	..	31
Discharged „ „	..	..	..	..	25
Died „ „	..	..	..	..	7
Remaining 31st December, 1947	..	..	..	..	6
Of the 25 discharges : Left the district	..	..	..	..	2
Since died	..	..	..	..	3
Working part-time	..	..	..	..	1
Unable to work	..	..	..	..	3
Transferred to Tuberculosis Block, Mill Lane Hospital	..	..	..	..	14
Working full-time	..	..	..	..	2

REHABILITATION AND AFTER-CARE.

Rehabilitation is that aspect of treatment which prepares the patient for employment consistent with his or her abilities and physical condition. For the chronic ambulant case with a positive sputum, return to competitive industry is nearly always impossible, and sheltered occupation is essential.

The work of the Voluntary Tuberculous Care Committee has continued to progress. A resettlement clinic is held in the dispensary every Tuesday afternoon, and in Mrs. Gorst we have a very enthusiastic and able teacher of numerous crafts.

In addition to leather work, the making of lamp-shades, rugs, shoes and mocassins are now taught. The Disablement Resettlement Officer of the Ministry of Labour attends this clinic, and suitable employment has been found for a large number of cases in Wallasey. An employment register is now kept also in the dispensary.

The Committee is attempting to build a work-shop where sheltered employment can be given to cases until they are fit to enter competitive industry. Grants of money have been given to some sick patients in their homes, and beds and bedding have been distributed to necessitous cases. Emphasis is, however, placed more on rehabilitation of patients, than on financial help.

The Sanatorium Welfare Committee has done excellent work in brightening the monotony of the patients' long days. A successful appeal was launched which resulted in the provision of a modern sound projector, and film shows are now given each month.

MEMO. 266/T.

Under the provisions of the above Memorandum 44 patients have received Treatment Allowances during 1947, 32 of whom were recommended during the year under review, including one special payment, 9 patients were receiving allowances on 31st December, 1947 including one special payment.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The number of new cases attending the Clinic was 90, of which 36 were definite cases of venereal disease. The total number of definite cases of Wallasey residents treated in the Merseyside Clinics was 110, compared with 181 in 1946.

The introduction of penicillin into treatment has brought about an increase in the number of cases of Gonorrhoea, and early Syphilis treated by private practitioners. Since these diseases are not notifiable, the actual incidence is therefore unknown.

For Gonorrhoea penicillin is still the best drug, but in Syphilis it has been found that courses of arsenic and bismuth compounds are required in addition. This has brought about an increase in the number of attendances.

The following are particulars of the 36 new cases :

		<i>Syphilis</i>			<i>Gonorrhoea</i>		
		1947	1946	1945	1947	1946	1945
Males	..	7	9	1	20	19	10
Females	..	5	8	9	4	12	8
		<i>Attendances.</i>					
				1947	1946	1945	
Males	..	..	..	390	225	162	
Females	..	..	..	307	242	409	

46 specimens in connection with the clinic were examined in the clinic, and 133 specimens of blood were sent from the clinic for Wassermann reactions, Meinicke tests, and gonococcal fixation tests.

Defence (General) Regulations 33B.

This is the last year in which this regulation operates. One male and one female only were notified on Form 1, and both had left the district when attempts were made to trace them. No cases were named on two or more Forms 1.

Contact Tracing.

1.—Secured as a result of persuasion by original patients	..	15
2.—Persuaded to attend by social worker	.. ..	6

Return of Wallasey Residents treated in Liverpool and Birkenhead during the year.

		<i>Liverpool</i>			<i>Birkenhead</i>		
		1947	1946	1945	1947	1946	1945
Syphilis	.. ..	8	17	10	9	13	13
Chancroid	.. ..	—	2	1	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	.. ..	29	46	29	28	53	30
Non-venereal Conditions	..	74	89	72	40	40	46
		—	—	—	—	—	—
		111	154	112	77	106	89
		—	—	—	—	—	—
Total attendances of all cases	.. ..	793	1090	798	1913	2503	1407

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

REGISTRATION.

The number of Mentally Defective Persons on our Register, excluding children being dealt with under the Education Committee, at January 1st was 244 (122 males, 122 females). The number at December 31st was 252 (127 males, 125 females).

The number of visits paid during the year to Mentally Defective Persons was 237.

The following information is supplied at the request of the
BOARD OF CONTROL.

Particulars of Mental Defectives as on 1st January, 1948.

A.—Number of mental defectives ascertained to be “ Subject to be dealt with ” :—

1. Under “ Order ” :	M.	F.	T.
(a) (1) In Institutions (excluding cases on Licence)—			
Under 16 years of age ..	2	2	4
Aged 16 years and over ..	37	32	69
(2) On Licence from Institutions—			
Under 16 years of age ..	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over ..	5	12	17
(b) Under Guardianship (including cases on Licence)—			
Under 16 years of age ..	—	1	1
Aged 16 years and over ..	5	9	14
2. In “ places of safety ”—			
Under 16 years of age ..	4	1	5
Aged 16 years and over ..	—	—	—
3. Under Statutory Supervision	27	29	56
<i>Of whom, awaiting removal to an Institution</i> ..	—	—	—
4. Action not yet taken under any one of the above headings	—	—	—

B.—B.—Number of mental defectives not at present “subject to be dealt with” but for whom the Local

Authority may subsequently become liable ..	47	39	86
<i>Of whom, number under Voluntary Supervision</i> ..	<i>29</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>53</i>
Number of cases on the Registers of Occupation and Industrial Centres	9	9	18

During the year 1947.

1. Cases reported by Local Education Authorities (Section 57, Education Act, 1944).	M.	F.	T.
Reported under Section 57 (3)	3	5	8
“ “ “ 57 (5)	—	1	1
Total reported during 1947	3	6	9

Method of disposal :	M.	F.	T.
Sent to Institutions (by Order)	—	—	—
Placed under Guardianship (by Order)	—	—	—
“ “ under Statutory Supervision ..	1	6	7
Taken to “ Place of Safety ”	1	—	1
Died or Removed from Area	1	—	1
Action not yet taken	—	—	—
Total ..	3	6	9

2. Of the total number of Mental Defectives known to the Local Authority—

(a) Number who have given birth to children during 1947 :

(1) After marriage—0.

(2) While unmarried—0.

Males Females

(b) Number who have married during 1947

— —

The following is a list of Institutions in which Wallasey mentally defective persons were accommodated at the end of the year, and the number of such persons in each, admitted "Under Order."

CASES IN INSTITUTIONS.

	M.	F.
Ashton House, Birkenhead	—	4
Birkenhead Municipal Hospital	4	—
Caersws Institution, North Wales	1	—
Cranage Hall, near Northwich	18	23
Etloe House, Leyton	—	1
Gillibrand Hall, near Chorley	—	1
Mary Dendy Home, Sandlebridge	1	1
Monkton Hall	1	—
Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster	7	1
Stoke Park Colony, near Bristol	2	—
Forden Public Assistance Institution	3	1
Royal Earlswood Institution	2	1
Hortham Colony	—	1
	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 34

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

The Council decided in 1945 to open an Occupation Centre for Mentally Defective Children, and acquired the premises in Hale Road, previously known as the Liscard High School for Boys.

The buildings were approved by the Board of Control, and after adaptation, were opened on the 3rd June, 1946. Within a few days of opening, sixteen children attended.

The Centre is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and closed for holidays for one month during the summer, and approximately four weeks during the remainder of the year.

The children so far admitted vary in age from 5 to 16 years, and experience has shown that they soon settle down and are anxious to attend.

Mid-day meals are provided from Mill Lane Hospital and partaken on the premises. One-third of a pint of milk is also supplied to each child at 10-30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The crafts taught include plain sewing, embroidery and knitting for the girls, woodwork, rush seating and rug-making for the boys, and for boys and girls papier-mache work, painting, drawing, gardening, stool-making, raffia work, miniature basket work, etc. The children also receive instruction in reading, writing, spelling and simple arithmetic.

Towards the end of the year arrangements were made with the Birkenhead Corporation to accept Defectives from that area; eighteen Birkenhead children first attended on the 9th December, 1946. At the end of December, 1947, eighteen Wallasey and twenty-nine Birkenhead children were on the register.

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920-1938.

The duties of the Council under the Blind Persons Acts, 1920-38, are administered by the Health Committee.

A second Home Teacher was appointed and commenced duty on 2nd December, 1946.

7,677 visits were made to blind persons during 1947.

REGISTRATION OF BLIND PERSONS.

	M.	F.	Totals
No. on Register at January 1st ...	89	101	190
No. added during the year :			
New Cases	10	6	16
Transfers from other towns	5	3	8
Totals ...	104	110	214
No. of Removals from Register owing to :—	M.	F.	Total
Leaving Wallasey	3	6	9
Death	6	11	17
Totals ...	9	17	26
No. on Register at December 31st ...	95	93	188

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

No. of Wallasey cases receiving assistance from this Authority at January 1st, 1947	114
„ receiving assistance at December 31st, 1947	113
Amount disbursed by way of allowances, January to December, 1947	£4,649 3s. 2d.
No. of Wallasey cases receiving assistance from other Authorities at 1st January, 1947	13
No. receiving assistance at 31st December, 1947	14
Amount disbursed by way of allowances to these cases January to December	£726 18s. 0d.
No. of cases assisted by this Authority and rechargeable to other Authorities at 1st January, 1947	17
No. receiving assistance at 31st December, 1947	20
Amount disbursed by way of Allowances January to December	£789 8s. 9d.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1947, 20 people were examined by Dr. W. Dunlop Hamilton, of whom 16 were found to be blind, while 4 could not be certified. Of the 16 people certified as blind, blindness occurred in the following age groups.

Under 20 years of age—2	
20-30 years of age —	30-40 years of age —
40-50 „ „ 2	50-60 „ „ —
60-70 „ „ 2	Over 70 years of age 10

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This work is carried out under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. There are no ashpits in the Borough. Particulars as to the quantities of refuse and salvage disposed of in the past year are as under :—

House, &c. Refuse—			T.	C.	Q.
Quantity tipped away	...	...	24,628	18	2
Salvage, &c. material...	...	...	2,905	7	3
			27,533	6	1

Wet refuse collected in added areas and delivered to farms, 52 loads.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF EMPLOYEES.

The number of employees examined during the year, at the request of the various Departments was 80. The Departments, concerned were :—

Town Clerk	..	..	..	5
Education	..	..	..	12
Borough Treasurer	..	..	..	7
Borough Engineer and Surveyor				12
Public Health	..	..	..	12
Libraries	..	..	..	5
Gas and Water	..	..	..	5
Electricity	..	..	..	13
Housing	..	..	..	5
Motor Bus	..	..	..	2
Ferries	..	..	..	1
Public Assistance	..	..	..	1
				—
				80
				—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 156 samples of milk and 238 samples of other food and drink were analysed. 28 of the milk samples were reported as below standard. Of these 5 were taken from retailers, 15 were taken in course of delivery from producers to retailers, and 8 were taken at farms. Three retailers were cautioned, others sample taken from them indicating that they were not keeping the milk thoroughly mixed during the bottling. The other deficiencies were traced to the cows giving milk of poor quality, and in one case where the morning's milk was poor and the evening's milk good the Milk Marketing Board arranged for the supply to be sent to a dairy where it could be bulked.

One sample of margarine was not properly labelled and the seller was cautioned.

One sample of sausage also did not meet with the labelling requirements, and the seller was cautioned.

Proceedings were instituted in respect of 3 samples of Cocktail, the case being dismissed. On an appeal being made to the King's Bench Divisional Court in May, 1948, the Magistrates' decision was reversed and the case remitted back to them with a direction to convict.

Subsequent to this decision the Magistrates imposed a fine of £25 plus £8 1 0 costs.

FERTILISER AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT.

Twenty-four samples of Fertiliser and 1 sample of Feeding Stuff were submitted for analysis and all complied with the requirements of the Act.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT.

During the year the following applications were received

For registration	..	..	..	44
For re-registration	..	..	..	116

All applications were granted.

CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

(Biological Examination).

Routine sampling was curtailed owing to the diversion of supplies of incoming farm milk previously received at the local Dairies, to processing depots situate outside the Borough, and to difficulties which prevailed in the obtaining and acceptance of samples at the laboratories.

The following table relates to samples of Raw Milks submitted for Biological Examination, and includes Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Non-designated milks :—

	1947	1946	1945	1944
Number of samples taken ..	34	181	272	182
Number of Positive results (T.B.)	—	11	36	15
Percentage	—	6.08	13.23	8.24

Analysis of the figures referred to above, with special reference to the grades of milk sampled :—

Description of Milk	Number of samples submitted	Results of Biological tests	
		Positive	Negative
Certified Milk	5	—	5
Tuberculin Tested	25	—	25
Accredited (taken on production)	1	—	1
Undesignated	3	—	3
	34	—	34

Milk Production within the Borough.

There are eleven registered Cow Keepers in the Borough, including five licensed producers of Accredited Milk. During the year one Accredited producer submitted application to become licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. All the necessary requirements of the Order were fulfilled by the applicant and the necessary licence was granted. Samples of milk were obtained on production and 53 visits were made to farms during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The number of registered Dairies remains at 36. Designated milks are handled at a number of these premises under licence granted by the Local Authority, in accordance with the terms of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-44.

In the Borough there are two Dairies dealing solely in supplies of Tuberculin Tested Milk. In three cases licences are held authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised." A statutory obligation is imposed upon all dairymen in the Borough under the above Order, requiring that all milk vessels and dairy equipment including milk bottles, be kept at all times in a state of thorough cleanliness. All registered premises are equipped with washing and sterilizing apparatus for this purpose.

There are, in addition to the registered Dairies, 55 shops from which milk is retailed in sealed bottles as received from the suppliers. The proprietors are all registered as purveyors of milk, as required by the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of visits to Dairy Premises.. .. 307

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-44.

The number of licences granted during the year were as follows :—

1. To bottle and retail Tuberculin Tested Milk..	3
2. To retail bottled Tuberculin Tested Milk ..	9
3. To produce Pasteurised Milk	3
4. To bottle and retail Pasteurised Milk	1
5. To produce Tuberculin Tested Milk from June, 1947	1
6. To produce Accredited Milk	5

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(Bacteriological Examination)

No. of samples taken	30
No. of samples satisfactory	14
No. of samples unsatisfactory	16

The Bacteriological Standards for Tuberculin Tested Milk require that each sample shall satisfy a Methylene Blue Test, and Coliform Organisms shall not be present in one hundredth of a millilitre. Of the 16 unsatisfactory samples, 3 failed to satisfy both tests, 11 failed to satisfy the requirements of the Coliform Test. The remaining 2 samples failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test.

Five samples of Certified Milk (i.e. T.T. Milk bottled on the farm), are included in the above figures. Four samples proved satisfactory, the other failed to comply with the requirements of the Coliform Test.

Pasteurised Milk.

The main bulk of all milk supplies consumed in the Borough is processed, i.e. Pasteurised or Heat-treated before it is delivered to the consumer. From a public health point of view this is an important step forward, and proof in this regard is furnished by the fact that in 95 samples of Pasteurised and Heat-treated milk submitted for testing for the presence of tuberculous organisms, a negative report was received in every case. The samples referred to were obtained from all the main sources of supply, and represent a substantial volume of the milk which is distributed daily in the Borough. Furthermore, the results indicate how bulk supplies of Raw Milk may be made safe by efficient Pasteurisation, which, in addition to affording a high degree of protection against Tuberculosis, also reduces the danger of other milk born infections.

The 95 samples of processed milk referred to were also submitted to the tests laid down in the Heat-treated Milk (Prescribed Tests) Order of 1944, i.e. Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests. 91 samples satisfied both tests. The 4 unsatisfactory samples failed to satisfy the Phosphatase test. The following is a tabulation of the various samples of processed milk submitted for testing:—

Description of Milk	Number of Samples submitted	Results of Biological Tests	
		Positive	Negative
Sterilized Milk	—	—	—
T.T. Milk Pasteurised ..	5	—	5
Pasteurised Milk	90	—	90
	95	—	95

The milk samples submitted for examination during the year were obtained from the following sources:—

Dairies	104
Schools	9
Street Delivery Vehicles	16

Milk in Schools Scheme.

During the year 2,074,200 third pint bottles (86,425 gallons) were supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme.

The Schools in the Borough are catered for by 7 milk purveyors, Pasteurised Milk being supplied in each case.

In the sampling figures referred to above, it will be noted that 9 samples were obtained from milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme, and were submitted for Biological Testing (for Tuberculosis).

The report in each case was negative.

Supervision and Inspection of Meat and Food Supplies.

Visits made to food shops including Butchers, Fishmongers and other Food premises, resulted in the disposal of the following quantities of Food as unfit for human consumption :—

MEAT :				Home Killed Beef	190 lbs.		
				Imported Beef ..	560 lbs.		
				Pressed Brisket Beef	4 lbs.		
				Canned Mutton ..	54 lbs.		
				Sausages	12 lbs.		
				Total Weight ..	820 lbs.		
FISH :				Haddock	679 lbs.	Whiting ..	210 lbs.
				Smoked Haddock	210 lbs.	Smoked Whit-	
						ing Fillets ..	42 lbs.
				Cod	854 lbs.	Halibut ..	143 lbs.
				Cod Fillets ..	84 lbs.	Sea Bream ..	84 lbs.
				Smoked Cod ..	28 lbs.	Herrings ..	154 lbs.
				Smoked Cod Fillets	452 lbs.	Kippered Her-	
						rings ..	392 lbs.
				Flukes	70 lbs.	Lemon Sole ..	105 lbs.
				Plaice	596 lbs.	Prawns ..	6 bags.
				Chickens (Home Killed)	100 lbs.		
				Total Weight	4,203 lbs.		

Miscellaneous Foods.

A total of 3,335 containers of miscellaneous food products were found to be unfit for human consumption. These comprised canned meat, fish, vegetables, milk, preserves, etc. In some cases, meat found on inspection at butchers shops to be unsound, was returned to the allocating depots of the Wholesale Meat Supply Association, who arranged for replacement meat to the butchers.

A number of special complaints concerning the alleged sale of unsound food were investigated. No proceedings were instituted.

255 visits were made to Food premises and 415 certificates were issued certifying foodstuff to be unfit for human consumption.

WALLASEY AND ALFRED LAIRAGES.

Landing Place for Irish and Isle of Man Animals and Foreign Animals Landing Wharf.

During the year 12,988 Fat and Store Cattle were landed from Irish Steamers at this Wharf, which is situated within the Borough. The Animals, after examination by Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and upon completion of a quarantine period, are entrained for various destinations throughout the Country. Those found to be unfit to travel by reason of injury or illness are slaughtered. It was found necessary to revert to

slaughter in 75 instances. In each case a post mortem inspection of the carcase and viscera was carried out by this Department, and the following meat and offal found unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Meat and Organs</i>				<i>Cause of Condemnation.</i>
Livers	..	..	37 whole 23 parts	} Distoma and Abscess Formation.
Heads including Tongues			4 1	
Lungs	..	..	5 sets 2 sets 7 sets (Inc. heart)	Fibrous Tumours. Abscess Formation. Tuberculosis.
One carcase of Cow	..		600 lbs.	Generalized Tuberculosis.
All internal organs	..		100 lbs.	Generalized Tuberculosis.
Parts of Musculature (Oxen)	..	..	15 lbs.	Bruising.
Shoulder Piece (Beef) comprising Foreshin and Blade	..	..	45 lbs.	Bruising.
Diaphragm (Thin Skirt)			1	Tuberculosis.
Diaphragm (Thick Skirt)			1	Tuberculosis.
Total Weight of Meat and Offal condemned				.. Meat 660 lbs. Offal 948 lbs.

126 visits were made during the year to the slaughterhouse at this landing place.

Administration of Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders. **Anthrax Order, 1938.**

Notice was served during the year declaring and defining an infected place under the Order referred to above. The carcase of a pig was suspected of being affected with Anthrax. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, however, furnished a negative report.

Fowl Pest Order, 1948.

The Live Poultry industry was considerably handicapped during the year by disease and extensive prohibitions decreed by order of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to combat the plague of Fowl Pest which was taking heavy toll of poultry in various parts of the country. Following the publication of the new Order which became operative prior to Christmas, a number of notifications were received of suspected Fowl Pest. The reports were, in most instances, received from Domestic Poultry Keepers. In no case was Fowl Pest confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and no reports of suspected disease were received from Commercial Poultry Keepers or Farmers.

Poultry in the Borough remained free from this disease, the symptoms of which were given publicity for the guidance of Poultry Keepers.

Swine Fever Order, 1938.

Two cases of suspected Swine Fever were notified during the year, and in each case a negative report was received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Movement of Swine Order, 1922.

During the year 437 Store Pigs were moved under licence from the County Markets of Cheshire and Shropshire, to Pig Keepers' premises in the Borough. Pigs moved in accordance with the terms of a Movement Licence (Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1922), must remain on the premises to which they are destined until a period of 28 days has elapsed.

Farms, Piggeries and other premises were visited in order to ascertain that the requirements of this Order were being observed, and 127 visits were made for this purpose.

Sheep Scab Order, 1938.

260 Sheep and Lambs which were grazing on the Wallasey Municipal Golf Course were dipped during the season, in accordance with the terms of the Dipping Regulations made under the above Order.

Warble Fly (Dressing of Cattle) Order, 1938.

The Warble Fly (Dressing of Cattle) Order, 1938, remains suspended.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Notice requiring the detention and isolation of a suspected animal (Milch Cow), was served on a farmer in the Borough, and the animal was subsequently slaughtered.

Protection of Animals Act, 1911.

Grazing lands in the Borough were visited from time to time in order to ascertain that the animals thereon, i.e. Sheep, Lambs and Cattle were being properly tended and cared for.

During the year, a number of sheep gained access to the Electric Railway, which resulted in 9 lamb ewes being killed. The carcasses were inspected, but owing to the nature of the injuries salvage arrangements were not warranted. (All the animals in this area have since been transferred to other grazings).

A number of special visits and enquiries were made during the year as the result of complaints received alleging unnecessary suffering of animals. No proceedings were instituted.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATION, 1934.

Mussel and Cockle Beds—Wallasey Foreshore.

An Order made by the Liverpool Port Health Authority under the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, prohibits the taking of mussels and cockles for the purpose of sale for human consumption from these layings.

Observational visits were made during the year. No contraventions were reported.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT AND REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Abatement of Nuisances and Repairs to House Property.

In the report for 1946, attention was drawn to the vast increase during that year in the number of complaints from householders compared with previous and pre-war years. The year 1947 reveals no indication that the peak figure has yet been reached. On the contrary, the number during 1947 showed an increase of 2,779 by comparison with the previous year; the number of complaints reaching the surprisingly high total of 8,976. There is little doubt that this is due to some disinclination of many owners to execute house repairs in face of the rising costs of building materials and labour, coupled with their inability to raise rents by virtue of the control of rents; on the other hand, the lack of freedom of owners to execute house repairs without holding the necessary building licences often necessitates official sanction, and results in the support of the Sanitary Inspector being elicited. But this is by no means a full explanation for the vast number of calls made upon the services of the Sanitary Inspector, nor is the void in explaining the cause and reason filled by the fact that much of the disrepairs is a hangover from the days of the air raid. So much is evident from a comparison of the number of complaints received in the Health Departments of other towns of a similar size which received similar treatment at the hands of the Nazi "precision-bombers." The impression is that the explanation is to be found in the different degrees of public consciousness of the functions and usefulness of the Sanitary Inspector which exist in the minds of the people of different towns. If this be the case, the Wallasey public-consciousness is active beyond the average, and it is a reflection that the public from its experience in previous years, have arrived at the opinion that some results accrue from "complaining to the Health Department."

It is a measure of the effort devoted to this branch of the work that a total of 8,883 statutory and informal notices were served, necessitating 25,907 visits to dwelling houses. It is an indication also of a high degree of success, that the terms of 8,373 notices were complied with during the year; these notices involved the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of items of disrepair in dwelling houses totalling 11,046. The nature of the defects which have been made the subject of notices, compared with those which have been abated are tabulated overleaf:—

<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices Abated</i>
Roof Repairs	1,202	1,134
Gutters and Spout Repairs	831	735
External Walls and Chimney Repairs	439	484
Installation of Damp Proof Courses	138	108
Dampness	708	652
Yards : Paving and Repairs	191	157
Internal Walls and Ceiling Repairs	800	761
Doors : Repairs and Renewal	221	218
Windows : Repairs and Renewal	838	614
Floors : Repairs and Renewal	469	588
Sub-floor Ventilation	98	100
Rooms : Cleaning and Redecorating	17	21
Passages and Staircases : Cleaning and Re- decorating	7	5
Staircase Repairs	11	8
Handrails : Repairs and Renewal	5	4
Fireplaces and Flue : Repairs and Renewal	359	329
Cooking Stoves : Repairs and Renewal	6	15
Wash Boilers : Repairs and Renewal	6	9
Sinks, Lavatories : Repairs and Renewal	115	111
Baths : Repairs and Renewal	11	17
Waste Pipes : Repairs and Renewal	318	300
Provision and Improvement of Food Stores	10	26
Provision and Improvement of Dust Bins	544	716
Burst Water Pipe Repairs	1,476	1,548
Improvement and Reinstatement of Water Supply	215	270
Cleansing of W.C. Walls, etc.	8	10
Cleansing of W.C. Pans	16	14
W.C. Pans : Repairs and Renewal	409	367
W.C. Cisterns : Repairs and Renewal	478	501
W.C. Structures : Repairs and Renewal	254	252
W.C. Lighting : Repairs and Renewal	3	6
W.C. Ventilation : Repairs and Renewal	2	2
W.C. Doors : Repairs and Renewal	98	93
Provision of Additional W.C.'s	5	7
Soil Pipes : Repairs and Renewal	73	65
Clearing of Drains	584	591
Drain Repairs	114	128
Relaying of Drains	8	10
Emptying of Cesspools	1	1
Cesspool repairs	1	—
Abolition of Cesspools	1	—
Disinfection of Verminous Premises	15	7
Provision of Lighting	35	—
Drainer Boards : Repairs or Renewal	17	62
Improvement of Ventilation	2	—
Provision of Paving and Site Concrete	4	—
Total	11,163	11,046

General Environmental Public Health.

	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices Abated</i>
Choked Sewers	—	1
Cleansing of Stables and Manure Pits ..	3	6
Stables, Manure Pits : Repairs and Renewal	2	2
Piggeries : Cleansing and Whitewashing ..	—	—
Piggeries : Repairs and Reconstruction ..	—	—
Animal Nuisances	13	13
Removal of Offensive Accumulations ..	78	82
Cleansing of Ditches and Streams	6	—
Ditches and Stream Pollution	—	—
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Contraventions ..	3	5
Offensive Trades : Contraventions	1	3
Schools : Urinals—repairs and renewal ..	—	1
Schools : W.C.'s—repairs and renewal ..	—	—
Schools : Cleansing of W.C.'s and Urinals ..	—	3
Total	106	116

Number of Notices Served.

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Abated</i>
Preliminary	5,890	5,613
Statutory	2,993	2,760
	8,883	8,373

Details of Inspections of Dwellinghouses.

Dwellinghouses visited	25,907
Reinspections	13,985

INSPECTION OF PREMISES—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

It is in this field of public health that much remains to be done. The war years, with inevitable relaxations and obstacles, have produced an accumulation of defects and deterioration of the hygiene of food handlers in many food shops and other premises where food is stored, prepared or sold. The increase of communal feeding in restaurants and elsewhere has tended to increase the potentiality and multiplied the effects of food-borne infections in the country generally.

Fortunately, during 1947, Wallasey has been free of any major epidemic having its focus of infection in food supplies prepared within the town. But it is not to be assumed from this that the conditions in our food shops, bakeries, cafes and restaurants, etc. are ideal, or even approaching that desirable standard. Many of the premises now used as points of distribution of the town's food supply,

were not designed for the purpose ; only make-shift modifications are feasible in many cases ; in others, confliction arises from the non-availability of building materials, even though the trader may be willing to effect renovation.

Even so, despite handicaps arising from defects of structure and lay-out, despite shortages of modern hygienic equipment, much can be achieved by the individual food-handler and those responsible for his supervision by the strict and continual use of the elementary rule of hygiene. " Cleanliness " is such a simple word that means so much when pursued through its many ramifications to its ultimate conclusion. It involves cleanliness of the person ; it is from the human being that nine out of ten food-borne outbreaks originate, and a vast reduction in their incidence must necessarily result from the strict observance of hand-scrubbing after each occasion when the toilet is used. Cleanliness also involves scrupulous routine cleansing of shelves, utensils and equipment ; the protection of food from flies, other insects and rodents, and from the dust and dirt ever-present in the atmosphere of our modern environment ; it entails the proper storage of food at temperatures at which harmful bacteria will not multiply to the point that they will give rise to illness in the consumer. A satisfactory standard can only be attained by a recognition of and the exercise of personal responsibility by each and every food-handler. By and large, the cultivation of this sense of responsibility rests with the class of proprietors, managers and supervisors ; they can only succeed in the discharge of this vital obligation by close and continual vigilance and by keenly applying themselves to the task of educating their staffs to a proper realisation of the practical dangers of a failure to observe the fundamental rules of hygiene. At the same time, the supervisors should appreciate that the attainment of cleanliness as outlined, is a basic requirement and not an incidental one ; that being the case, it cannot be fulfilled by the allocation to the task of those last few minutes at the end of the working-day.

The Sanitary Inspectors are available at all times for the tendering of advice and assistance. During the past year, demands on their services have been high in other directions, particularly in connection with the abatement of nuisances arising from the disrepair of house property ; even so, they have succeeded in increasing the amount of time it had been found possible to devote to food premises during the first two years of peace. With the control of the nation's food supply through the medium of the Ministry of Food, there has emerged a practice which has proved its usefulness in the control of food premises, and which merits embodiment in future legislation. This is the machinery of liaison between the Deputy Food Executive Officer and the department, whereby reports are furnished relative to any proposal to issue food licences for the opening of new premises, or to transfer existing licences. By this means additions to the numbers of unsuitable premises used for food preparation, etc. are precluded, and minor modifications can be obtained to premises otherwise suitable, prior to the establishment of new businesses. The tables below give details of the work undertaken during 1947 excluding the details relating to ice cream premises which are dealt with separately elsewhere in this report.

Statistics Relating to Food Premises.

INSPECTIONS						<i>Visits</i>
Cafes, restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	304
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	18
Fried Fish shops	..	..	..	..	..	13
Other offensive trades	..	..	..	..	..	7
Other food premises	..	..	..	..	..	1,112
Total Visits						1,454

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

<i>Bakehouses</i> : Cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	..	..	6
Other contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	..	6
<i>Fried Fish Shops</i> : Cleansed and limewashed	..	..	..	..	..	3
General sanitary conditions improved	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	..	6
<i>Cafes, Restaurants</i> : Contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	..	40
<i>Other Food Premises</i> : General sanitary conditions improved	..	..	..	..	..	32
Additional W.C.'s provided	..	..	..	..	..	8
Hot and cold water supply provided	..	..	..	..	..	28
Soap, towels, provided	..	..	..	..	..	7
Glazed sink provided	..	..	..	..	..	113
Sterilising equipment provided	..	..	..	..	..	12
Rooms cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	131
Rooms re-plastered	..	..	..	..	..	80
Total						476

Applications for Issue of Ministry of Food Licences.

Visits made in connection therewith	..	..	..	..	201
Issues of licences approved	..	..	..	..	115
Issues of licences recommended for refusal	..	..	..	..	29

Beach and Promenade Sites used for the Sale of Food and Drink.

Concern over the conditions of the sale of articles of food and drink on beach, promenade and common sites during the summer season of 1947 resulted in the preparation of a report to the Health Committee on the lines as set out below. The report was received by the Committee who accepted the recommendations and resolved that a copy of the report be referred to the Publicity and Entertainments Committee for their consideration.

Sites Occupied for the Sale of Articles of Food and/or Refreshments.

"Foreshore and Promenade Sites are let by the Corporation for the sale of articles of food such as shrimps, shellfish, fruit, and for liquid and solid refreshments. Similar conditions to those described in relation to the sale of Ice Cream prevail. Sales take place from open structures, and in certain cases from unprotected tables placed on foreshore or beach sites. Facilities for washing hands by

employees are improvised, buckets of water being carried from stand-pipes often hundreds of yards distant. Where plates and drinking utensils are in use their proper cleansing is impracticable. The proper cleansing of utensils is a Public Health necessity in view of the high possibility of carrier infection by the person in charge, or by a previous user of cup, glass or plate. An ample supply of hot and cold water is essential. The provision of a primus stove has been the limit of any requirements we have been able to make in this regard.

Articles of food are exposed for appreciable periods of time ; fruits such as peaches and pineapples are often sliced into portions to bring their selling price within the range of the powers of purchase by children.

Any well-meaning efforts by the occupiers to cover their goods with muslin are token rather than effectual as a means of protection against dust, dirt, flies and other vectors of food infections. The dangerous potentialities of the sale of food in these circumstances is increased by the fact that the food is consumed as received from the dealer without further cooking.

In my opinion, a satisfactory solution can only be obtained by implementation of the following suggestions :—

1. The Corporation should cease to let for the sale of articles of food and refreshments (liquid or otherwise) those sites which are so situated that semi-permanent structures cannot be erected, and where the drainage, water and heating services cannot be installed.
2. The design and layout of the structures should be approved by relevant Departments of the Corporation and should be *in situ* by the time of commencement of the summer season. Sales should not be permitted until the finished and equipped premises have been approved by the Medical Officer of Health. The minimum installations would consist of the provision of a piped cold water supply within the premises, together with a means of heating the water in the form of a geyser ; a sink and necessary drainage is essential.
3. The only exception to paragraph (1) would be that in which the only article of food received at and sold from the site was contained in containers of such materials and so closed as to exclude all risks of contamination. Sandwiches received at the site in the containers in which they were sold would constitute such an example provided that they were prepared in approved premises and no exposure of the food took place on the site of sale.

General Remarks.

It is suggested that the Corporation should consider the provision of a standard form of kiosk to be let with each site. Aesthetic, public health and constructional considerations would prevail in its design, and it is probable that over a period of time increased rentals would offset the cost. The practice of letting open sites for the sale of food, ice cream and refreshments creates an obstacle to effective public health administration since the period of occupation by one individual is often too short to obtain the execution of work by service of notice or the instituting of legal proceedings in default."

CONTROL OF ICE CREAM PREMISES.

The problem of the control of the preparation of ice cream, together with the premises in which it is manufactured, stored for sale, or sold has long been one which has engaged the attention of food sanitarians in this country. Legislation to enforce registration of premises was made general by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but the opinion was shared universally in public health circles that the problem was so important as to demand more stringent powers being vested in local health authorities. A step in this direction was made in 1947 by the passing into law on the 1st May, of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. To say that the regulations meet fully the omissions of previous law on the subject would be a sign that one was easy to satisfy. Nevertheless they have enabled much more strict control of the methods of manufacture, from the aspect of cleanliness and bacteriological purity, and by judicious application of the regulations it has been possible to improve the conditions of sale from vehicles by peripatetic vendors and from kiosks which cater for holiday trade.

There is little doubt that hitherto, conditions of the manufacture of ice cream have left much to be desired ; equally there is little doubt that the general powers possessed by local authorities under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were insufficient to enable them to effect a remedy to any but the flagrant abuses. At the inception of the new regulations, a total number of 30 premises were registered in Wallasey for the manufacture of ice cream. Of these, 16 premises were found to be unsuitable in such circumstances as to be incapable of rendition to fitness, or only at such cost and inconvenience as to be prohibitive in the estimation of the occupiers. The registrations were accordingly cancelled. Requirements were made of the occupiers of the remaining premises to effect compliance with the regulations, and in all cases the requirements were fulfilled.

The conditions under which ice cream was stored and sold occasioned concern only in the case of New Brighton and Moreton Districts, where the preponderance of vehicles and kiosks are to be found. Corporation-controlled beach trading sites merited improvement, and with this end in view, at the close of the summer season, the Health Committee after the consideration of a full report, made recommendations to the Publicity and Entertainments Committee in the following terms :—

1. No sites should be let by the Corporation for the sale of loose ice cream unless there is provided suitable premises so constructed that the product is properly protected against contamination in accordance with the Regulations of 1947 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and in which there is installed a piped supply of cold water and means of producing continuous hot water, preferably by means of a geyser. The design of the structures should be approved by the relevant departments of the Corporation and sales should not commence until the finished premises have been approved by the Medical Officer of Health.
2. No sites on beach or shore where the above facilities are not available, should be let by the Corporation for the sale of ice

cream unless the ice cream is so wrapped as to exclude all risk of contamination, and sold as received on the site.

By this means, it is hoped that during 1948, there will be effected considerable improvement in the conditions of sale of ice cream in New Brighton and Moreton, not only from sites owned by the Corporation, but from kiosks and vehicles owned by private entrepreneurs.

STATISTICS RELATIVE TO THE YEAR 1947.

REGISTRATIONS APPROVED DURING 1947.

Sale only	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Sale and storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Manufacture sale and storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Storage only	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—
Total							76
							—

REGISTRATIONS REFUSED

Manufacture and sale	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Manufacture sale and storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Manufacture	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sale	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sale and storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							—
Total							5
							—

REGISTRATIONS CANCELLED.

Manufacture	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Manufacture and sale	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Manufacture, sale and storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
							—
Total							16
							—

NUMBER OF PREMISES ON REGISTER AT CLOSE OF YEAR.

Premises registered for sale of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Premises registered for storage of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Premises registered for sale and storage of ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	151
Premises registered for manufacture, sale and storage of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
							—
Total							247

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

Total Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	393
Formal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
General sanitary conditions improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Sterilising facilities installed	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Other contraventions remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Compliance with 1947 regulations obtained in existing factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

ADMINISTRATION OF SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1936.

The full provisions of these Acts are administered including Shops Hours of Closing, Sunday Trading Restrictions, Employment of Young Persons, Sanitary conditions, the maintenance of documents and records, and the exhibition of notices as prescribed by the Acts.

During the year, it was found possible to effect 2,122 complete inspections of shops, necessitating the service of 644 notices. Reinspections numbering 1,513 were executed to ensure compliance with notices, and it was ascertained that the following improvements had resulted :—

NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Number of Notices served	644
Number of shops in which contraventions were detected	799
Number of contraventions discovered and remedied	1,217

NATURE OF CONTRAVENTIONS REMEDIED.

Section 1 (2) Provision of Assistants Half-holiday card ..	151
Section 1 (3) Provision of seats for female employees ..	2
Section 4 (3) Provision of Half-day Closing Notice ..	372
Section 10 (1) Provision of Mixed Trades Notices ..	82
Section 10 (1) Suitable and sufficient ventilation ..	19
Section 10 (1) Maintenance of reasonable temperature ..	6
Section 10 (2) Provision of sanitary accommodation ..	19
Section 10 (2) Sanitary accommodation (cleansed and repaired)	115
Section 10 (6) Certificates of exemption granted (W.C. accom.)	6
Section 10 (3) Provision of suitable and sufficient lighting ..	9
Section 10 (4) Provision of washing facilities	35
Section 10 (6) Certificates of exemption granted (washing facilities)	3
Section 10 (5) Provision of facilities for meals	2
Section 7 (1) and 7 (2) Provision of Documents (Young Persons)	372
General sanitary conditions improved ..	15

SHOPS ACT, 1936 (SUNDAY TRADING).

Section 12 (b) Provision of Records of Sunday Employment	4
--	---

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.

Contraventions detected and remedied	5
Total	1,217

ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936.

CLEARANCE ORDERS Nos. 62 to 66.

In the last annual report it was recorded that five Clearance Areas had been defined and made the subject of Official Representations during 1946. On the 18th September, 1947, a Local Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health, to consider objections raised by the owners. On the 20th November, 1947, the Orders received the confirmation of the Minister, who awarded compensation under Section 42 of the Act, in respect of 10 well maintained houses included in the 20 houses comprising the Areas.

It is believed that these are among the first, if not the first Clearance Orders to receive the Minister's confirmation since the cessation of hostilities. Houses comprised within the areas :—

CLEARANCE AREA No. 62.

“ Bethany,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ Hazledene,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ The Poplars,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ The Gables,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ Highfield,” Seafield Road.	5 houses.

CLEARANCE AREA No. 63.

“ Mayville,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ The Haven,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ Beulah,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ Cliftonville,” Bella Vista Road.	
“ Homefield,” Seafield Road.	
“ Calderbank,” Seafield Road.	
“ Norma Cottage,” Seafield Road.	7 houses.

CLEARANCE AREA No. 64.

“ Franklyn Villa,” Sand Dune Road.	
“ Calder Villa,” Sand Dune Road.	2 houses.

CLEARANCE AREA No. 65.

“ Oak Lodge,” Sand Dune Road.	
“ Rosemount,” Sand Dune Road.	2 houses.

CLEARANCE AREA No. 66.

“ Wyandra,” Birket Road.	
22 Birket Road.	
“ Poplars,” 17 Birket Road.	
“ Williamsville,” 19 Birket Road.	4 houses.

Total	20 houses
-------	-----------

The houses were considered to be unfit for human habitation on the basis of the following report :—

“ The houses are located on an area of unpaved and uneven land which is subject to periodical flooding in winter months. On a number of occasions tenants have been forced to evacuate their homes owing to the ingress of floods, and the entry of flood water into many houses has taken place on a number of occasions. In most of the houses, items of furniture have been observed to be raised on loose bricks as a precaution against anticipated ingress of floods. During the flood periods, deliveries of food and coal, collection of water and organisation of refuse collection services are extremely difficult. Of the twenty houses included in the area, no single house has a site level above the normal level of flooding ; only six of the twenty houses have internal floors at a level higher than the highest recorded flood level.

None of the houses possess a piped system of drainage and the provision of sewers and drains would present considerable practical difficulties and would be expensive. The separate system of drainage is in operation in the district in which the houses are situated, and any surface water sewer would normally discharge into the River Birket, the overflow of which results in the flooding of the sites. Pail closets form the sanitary convenience to 13 of the houses ; six of the houses possess “ Elsan ” chemical closets, but in some cases, the chemical closet functions merely as a receptacle in the same way as does the privy pail. One house is not provided with a sanitary convenience of any description. Many of the structures to the conveniences are dilapidated and inundated during flood periods with consequent pollution of surrounding ground surface. Only six of the houses possess internal scullery sinks which drain into the soil or to drainage ditches in the adjoining gardens. Sinks which are not fitted with a waste pipe are installed in seven houses, the discharge from the sinks being collected in an open receptacle and conveyed to the exterior where it is deposited on the ground. The remaining seven houses have no sinks installed.

Water supply for the occupants of the houses is obtained from four external standpipes which serve twenty seven houses in the locality. The stand-pipes are situated at distances varying from 50 feet to 400 feet from the houses included in the Clearance Areas, and the approaches to the stand-pipes are unpaved, often muddy and flooded. On a number of occasions the taps have been covered by flood water. In view of their exposed positions, pipes are consistently frozen in winter and bursts occur frequently. The four taps are supplied by one connection of small capacity from the water main in Ditton Lane : the branches to the taps are of small diameter ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch) and flow through them is restricted due to age, excessive use and corrosion. A considerable period of waiting is experienced by householders in their efforts to collect water.

There are no metalled roads on the estate. The common approaches to all the houses consist of two cinder paths from Ditton Lane which is unpaved. The ground surface between the lines of houses is rough, covered in vegetation and in many places deep depressions retain stagnant water. If the roads

were constructed at the prescribed bylaw level of 14.5 above Ordnance Datum, the existing sites would be 2 ft. 9 ins. to 4 ft. 3 ins. (approximately) below the street level ; internal floors would be 1 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins. (approximately) below street level.

There is no provision for the supply of gas or electricity from public service mains.

Accommodation for the preparation and cooking of food is below standard in the majority of houses ; only one house possesses a well-ventilated food store. With the exception of two houses adequate accommodation for the washing of clothes does not exist.

In only three houses is natural lighting satisfactory to all rooms. In the twenty houses included in the areas, forty-six rooms are dark and twenty-seven rooms do not possess windows to comply with the requirements of modern byelaws.

Satisfactory ventilation to all rooms exists only in two houses. There are fifty-one rooms within the twenty houses which do not possess window opening area equivalent to one-twentieth of the floor area.

Airspace in every house except two is markedly below standard. Only six of the twenty houses possess a bedroom capable of accommodating two persons over 10 years of age (according to the standard of the Housing Act, 1936). The restricted space is illustrated by the fact that the calculated average size of the 92 so-called habitable rooms in the 20 houses is 86 sq. ft.

The various houses are constructed of short lived materials and are below the general standard of housing accommodation in the district. In only one house, is there evidence of an effective damp proof course, and only in one instance is there evidence of an impervious site covering, and in this case, it does not cover the whole of the site. In all the houses evidence of dampness exists in floors, walls, roofs or in the airspace.

Only two houses are provided with satisfactory paving to surrounds and paths. In all the remaining houses the paving is defective, uneven, insufficient in area or completely absent.

Items of minor disrepair exist in all the houses ; nine of the houses are in a marked state of disrepair and three houses are in a state of repair which can be described as fair only ; the remaining eight houses are reasonably well maintained within the limits for this class of building."

DEMOLITION ORDERS.

Two Demolition Orders were made, and became operative during the year, alternative accommodation being provided for the displaced persons by the Corporation.

In addition two houses included in the original programme, were demolished by the Corporation in connection with the development of new housing estates.

Demolition Orders : 4 Edgehill Road.
 " Woodlands," Chapelhill Road.
Voluntary Demolition : New House Farm, Danger Lane.
 Rose Cottage, Danger Lane.

PROGRESS REPORT OF ACTION UNDER HOUSING ACTS 1930/36.

Position as at 31st December, 1947.

<i>Clearance Areas.</i>	No. of dwelling houses demolished		Number of persons dis- placed up to 31st March	Number of dwelling houses made fit
	Unfit Houses	Other Houses		
(1) Land coloured " pink " ..	679	—	} 1,538	—
(2) Land coloured " grey " ..	—	—		

Insanitary houses not included in clearance areas or improvement areas.

1. Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	271
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11.	70
3. Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the houses for human habitation	2
4. Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	4
5. Number of persons displaced as a result of action	
under (1) above	906
under (2) above	72
under (3) above	8
under (4) above	7

OVERCROWDING.

Extreme shortage of housing accommodation has rendered almost ineffective the penal provisions of the Housing Act concerning overcrowding. Much has been written and much more could be written of the moral and public health dangers which may accrue from the overcrowded conditions in which many families now find themselves living. Sympathy now is to be extended, whereas in pre-war conditions, one "served notice to abate the overcrowding," firm in the assurance that "a vacant house could always be found." In April 1936, the exhaustive overcrowding Survey undertaken under the Housing Act, 1935 revealed 349 families to be overcrowded in Wallasey. At present, it is impossible to hazard an estimate that would be anything other than very approximate. That the present figure of overcrowding is considerably higher than in 1935 is evident from the fact that in 1947, 140 new cases were referred to the Housing Manager for allocation of the additional ten points under the Corporation's rehousing Scheme.

NEW HOUSING PROVIDED DURING 1947.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following details of the progress in the provision of new houses :—

BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

<i>Ward</i>			<i>Certified 1947</i>	<i>In Progress</i> 31/12/47
Saughall Massie	..	..	—	—
Leasowe	..	..	5	3
Moreton	..	..	38	21
New Brighton	..	..	4	5
Upper Brighton	..	..	8	16
North Liscard	..	..	1	11
South Liscard	..	..	3	4
North Egremont	..	..	8	12
South Egremont	..	..	—	4
North Seacombe	..	..	—	—
South Seacombe	..	..	—	—
Somerville	..	..	15	37
Poulton	..	..	36	27
Marlowe	..	..	15	27
St. Hilary	..	..	20	15
Warren	..	..	12	27
Wallasey	..	..	22	15
			187	224
<i>By Local Authority</i>	..	..	176	423
<i>Flat Conversions</i>	..	..	50	—
			413	647

The totals include new construction and the rebuilding of war damaged (Cost of Works) houses.

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

A commencement was made during the year on the routine inspection of factories. This aspect of the work of the Department had of necessity declined during and immediately after the war years in view of staff difficulties and the vast increase of day-to-day calls in other directions. The task is now a major one, comprehensive inspections and preparation of complete records being required on the occasion of each initial visit. It was, however, possible to effect this in respect of approximately one-third of the factories known to exist. The general condition can be described as satisfactory having regard to the difficulties of the war years. The thirty defects discovered is a small number, having regard to the number of premises visited.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced	85	49	5	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	277	99	7	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ..	1	4	1	—
Total ..	363	152	13	—

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) Unreasonable	—	—	—	—	—
Temperature (S.3.)	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) ..	3	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ..	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ..	8	14	—	3	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ..	7	11	—	4	—
(c) not separate for sexes	6	7	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	4	2	4	—	—
Total ..	30	37	5	8	—

Outwork.

Wearing apparel—making, etc.	Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	7
	Visits made	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASE: INVESTIGATION AND SURVEILLANCE

There was a big reduction in the number of visits rendered necessary in this category during 1947, when 186 visits of enquiry and surveillance were made by comparison with 1,530 in the previous year. This was due to the comparatively small number of visits of surveillance to small pox contacts which reached an abnormally high figure in 1946.

- (a) *Smallpox*. Seven contacts entered Wallasey during the year, five entering the country by sea, and two by air.
- (b) *Acute Poliomyelitis*. Wallasey avoided the 1947 wave of epidemics of acute poliomyelitis which were experienced in various parts of the country, though seven sporadic cases were notified during the year. The cases bore no apparent points of affinity, and as is common in these cases, inquiries failed to reveal information as to the focus of infection.
- (c) *Food Poisoning* (1) Three children in a children's hospital in Wallasey were affected with food-poisoning due to an infection of salmonella typhi murium. One of the cases was fatal, and was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest, at which a verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned. Detailed investigations were carried out into the circumstances of the case. The presence of mice in the hospital kitchen and rats in the grounds was detected: rat virus had been in use during the preceeding few months. Specimens of rat and mice excreta, and the rat virus failed to reveal the presence of salmonella typhi murium. Specimens of faeces and blood taken from the nursing, medical, ward and kitchen staffs failed to disclose the presence of a carrier. Salmonella typhi murium and salmonella montevideo were recovered from specimens of dried egg used in the hospital kitchen but there was no evidence of direct connection between this food and the infected cases. Duck eggs did not feature in the history of the case. The investigations, therefore, were inconclusive. As a precaution, a rodent control campaign was introduced at the hospital, and no further cases of the disease occurred during the year.

(2) An outbreak of food poisoning caused by coagulase positive staphylococcus aureus occurred in June, 1947. Investigation revealed the epidemic to be an offshoot of a larger epidemic occurring and having its origin in an adjoining town. The cause of the outbreak was discovered to be trifles prepared in the bakery of a firm outside Wallasey; the vehicle of infection was a female carrier in the bakery; this conclusion was supported by phage-typing of the causative organism. A number of the infected trifles was sent to a restaurant in New Brighton, and resulted in the illness of 22 out of 32 members of a party of visitors who dined there. Considerably more cases occurred simultaneously in the area of the adjoining local authority.

WATER SUPPLY.

Town Area.

Quantity.

The actual volume of water supplied during the year ended the 31st December, 1947, by the Corporation undertaking, which supplies the entire County Borough District except Saughall Massie, was 1,347,907,000 gallons, and the total consumption per head per day was 36.80 gallons, of which 30.08 gallons were used in the homes and 6.72 gallons for shipping and trade. During the year 986,700 gallons were used by the Cleansing Department.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

During the year thirteen samples of water have been collected from all parts of the District and chemical and bacteriological testing carried out by the City Bacteriologist at the Bacteriological Department, Liverpool, and the Water Examination and Chemical Laboratory at Wallasey. In all testings and analyses poisonous metals were reported absent and there has been no case of contamination from Lead. The regular Bacteriological Examinations of Waters from all section of the plant and system and from all districts of the Supply and Distribution have shown the water to be maintained in a constant condition of purity.

Certificates are issued by the City Bacteriologist and are consistently as follows in regard to samples taken from houses in the Borough :—

Bacteria per c.c. at 37°C.	..	..	0
Bacteria per c.c. at 22°C.	..	..	0
B. Coli per 100 c.c.	..	..	0
Total Coliform organisms per 100 c.c.			0

Class 1 (Highly Satisfactory).

Source and Treatment.

The Water Supply to the County Borough of Wallasey (excluding Saughall Massie), is obtained from two sources, as follows : Bulk supplies of soft upland Lake Alwen water from the Birkenhead Corporation, and softened water from the Bore Holes at the Liscard Pumping Station, Seaview Road.

Soft upland waters of the highest possible purity is obtained in bulk from the Birkenhead Corporation from their Alwen Reservoir under two agreements. The first agreement dated 28th July, 1925, provided for supplies of water in perpetuity up to a maximum quantity of two million gallons per diem from 1943.

This supply commenced on the 16th August, 1926.

The other agreement with the Birkenhead Corporation, which was completed on the 6th April, 1933, provided for additional supplies of Lake Alwen water, which were commenced on the 7th August, 1935.

Under these combined agreements a supply of 3.0 million gallons per diem is now being received.

The quantity of water raised from the Bore Holes at the Seaview Road Water Works is regulated in accordance with the requirements of the district, which vary according to the time of the

year, between 2,000,000 and 500,000 gallons per day. This sparkling water is pumped, after softening, into the Reservoirs at Gorsehill to be mixed with the upland waters from Lake Alwen before being delivered to the district and the homes of the people.

The normal capacities of the Reservoirs are as follows :—

			<i>Gallons</i>
No. 1. Reservoir	..	..	2,000,000
No. 2. Reservoir	..	..	4,250,000
Total Capacity			<u>6,250,000</u>

Consequential to Air Raid Damage, the capacity of No. 2 Reservoir is reduced to 1,750,000 gallons, making a total storage capacity of 3,750,000 gallons.

Under normal conditions continuous supplies of water are maintained of a hardness in the nature of 7 to 8 degrees, which is under the classification of soft water, but still contains the mineral products necessary for life. The degree of hardness does, however, vary, the extent of variation depending on the relative proportions of Bore Hole water and Alwen water present in the mains.

As a precautionary measure, the water is chlorinated at Gorsehill, the dosage being 0.1. parts per million, which leaves the water free of any taste or smell of chlorine.

Average of twelve samples of water taken from various parts of the district during 1947 :—

					<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Total hardness	..	..	..	..	10.7
Cholorides	..	..	..	..	8.82
Total solids	..	..	..	..	22.0
Free Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.006
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	0.004
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.				..	0.097
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	..	0.08
pH value	..	..	..	..	7.06
Metals—lead, copper, iron	..	..	..	..	Absent
Bacteria per c.c. at 37°C.	..	..	..	..	4
B. Coli	..	..	..	..	Absent

The water is clear, bright, pure and wholesome.

SAUGHALL MASSIE.

Water supply to the extreme western end of the County Borough District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The district receiving this supply is approximately defined as the district west of the River Arrowe to the Borough boundary. This includes Hoylake Road west of Bermuda Road, and roads off it, Saughall Road, Mill House Lane, Acton Lane, Orchard Road, etc., Carr Lane and Park Road.

The water supplied is obtained from deep wells at the Board's Pumping Stations at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, with auxiliary supplies from Birkenhead Corporation as required. All the water is pumped into Heswall Reservoir, and flows from thence, by gravitation to the area.

The water from each source has a different total hardness and as these are constantly mixed in varying quantities, it is impossible to assign a fixed hardness figure to the water distributed. For practical purposes it may be stated that the maximum total hardness does not exceed 17 degrees Clark, and the average will be about 13 degrees.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are undertaken at frequent intervals by the Board's analyst, at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, S.W.1.

Twenty-seven samples were submitted during the year, at fortnightly intervals. The mean result obtained by averaging the 27 samples is as follows :

Colonies per c.c. at 37 deg. C. (agar) in one day	..	0.5
Colonies per c.c. at 37 deg. C. (agar) in two days	..	0.9
Colonies per c.c. at 22 deg. C. (agar) in three days	...	7.0
Presumptive Coli (a) Absent in 100 ml.	..	25 samples.
(b) Intermediate Type I present		
in 50 ml.	.. ..	2 samples.
B. Welchii	Absent in 100 ml.	

Quarterly chemical examinations are undertaken, and the following figures represent the average of the four samples taken during 1947 :—

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance : Bright, with very few particles of mineral debris.
 Colour : Nil. Odour : Nil. Reaction pH : 7.1.
 Electric conductivity at 20 deg. C. : 562.
 Total Solids, 180 deg. C. : 352.
 Chlorine in Chlorides : 69.5.
 Nitrogen in Nitrates : 2.7.
 Hardness : Permanent, 66.2 ; Temporary, 178.8 ; Total 245.
 Metals : Iron less than 0.015. Other metals absent.
 Free Ammonia : 0.00. Albuminoid Ammonia : 0.00.
 Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours, 27 deg. C. : 0.00.
 Ammoniacal Nitrogen : 0.00. Albuminoid Nitrogen : 0.00.
 Free CO₂ : 17.5.
 Turbidity (Silica Scale) : Less than 5.
 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate : 133.
 Nitrites : Less than 0.01..

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The water carriage system of drainage is used in all except small outlying districts of the Borough, where chemical closets are to be found in occasional houses where sewer facilities are not within 100 ft. In such cases, a collection service is undertaken by the Corporation. Septic tanks and cesspools are also in use in a number of houses in this western part of the district, where the separate system of drainage is in operation. Crude sewage from the main town sewers is discharged into the River Mersey and its estuary at suitable points. A small sewage disposal plant is in use at the western end of the County Borough District.

Sewer Reconstruction.

Minor sewer reconstructions were effected by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor during the year. One foul sewer was laid in Castleway North and additional street gullies were provided to the existing sewers in Borough Road and Virginia Road.

House Drainage.

Visits by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with same	..	789
Drains cleansed from obstruction after service of notice	..	591
Minor repairs effected to existing drains	.. ..	128
Entire reconstruction of existing drains	.. ..	7
Partial reconstruction of existing drains	.. ..	63
Drain Tests : (a) Smoke	.. ..	79
(b) Water	.. ..	11
(c) Colour	.. ..	68
Cesspools emptied after service of notice	.. ..	1
Cesspools repaired	.. ..	—
Cesspools abolished	.. ..	—
Choked sewers referred to Borough Engineer	.. ..	1
Ditches and watercourses inspected	.. ..	12
Ditches and streams cleansed	.. ..	—
Ditches and streams: pollution remedied	.. ..	—

Drain Flushing.

The practice of the routine flushing of house drains by the Corporation as a gratis-supply service was discontinued during 1947. The only loss which would appear to have been sustained by cessation of the service is the fact that an appreciable number of choked drains were relieved as an incident to the flushing operation. But the practice of routine flushing of house drains was conceived not for this purpose, but in the days when it was thought to constitute a valuable preventive health measure. In the days of enlightenment there would not seem to be a strong case for its continuance. It is interesting to note that the probable annual saving of water which has resulted from the discontinuance of routine flushing is in the region of three quarters of a million gallons.

Rodent Control.*Surface Infestations.*

156 complaints were received during the year; these were investigated, and routine visits totalling 1,125 were made in connection with treatments and spontaneous inspections of those types of premises prone to rodent control. Ministry of Agriculture methods were employed throughout, except on two occasions when trapping proved to be necessary. Results of work undertaken during the year were as follows :—

	<i>Reservoir</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Minor</i>
1. No. of infestations treated —	3	133	
2. No. of infestations received more than one treatment —	—	—	4
3. Bait bases employed Sausage rusk and bread mash			
4. Poisons used Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic			
5. No. of infestations where post-bait takes occurred —	—	—	4
6. Estimated total kill (Ministry formula) —	150	1,050	
7. Total number of bodies recovered .. —	70	107	
8. No. of infestations cleared —	3	102	
9. No. reduced to "Major" —	—	—	—
10. No. reduced to "Minor" —	—	—	—
11. No. of proposed re-treatments .. —	—	—	5
12. Written notices served —	—	—	8

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

Two sewer maintenance treatments have been completed during the year, commencing on the 10th March, 1947, and finishing on the 21st December, 1947.

One baiting party comprising two men only was employed, as compared with three parties of three men each in 1944 and two parties of three men each in 1945 and 1946. The treatment of the sewer system, therefore, by Ministry of Food methods, has been continuous since 1944. In that year two initial treatments were executed on the whole of the sewer system. In 1945 and 1946 two maintenance treatments were carried out in each year, the first and second treatments in each case being applied to the entire sewer system.

In view of the gradual reduction of rat population, indicated by the statistics for previous years' treatments, it was decided to apply only the first treatment of 1947 to the entire system, and to restrict the second treatment to those series of manholes which were infested, with necessary "overlap" in accordance with accepted standards. The summarised statistics for the year 1947 are as follows :—

	<i>First treatment</i>	<i>Second treatment</i>
(1) No. of manholes in system	5,232	5,232
(2) No. of manholes baited	4,749	793
(3) Total No. of prebait takes	339	121
(4) No. of complete takes in one or both days (included in (3))	81	37

The total number of prebait takes, expressed as a percentage of the total manholes baited, is 7.2%. This figure is strikingly low by comparison with previous years : corresponding figures for 1944, 1945 and 1946 respectively were 36.7%, 26.0% and 27.3%.

The reduction of prebait takes is further reflected in the fact that of the 69 sectors into which the sewer system is divided for treatment purposes, 27 sectors were found to be completely free of infestation during 1947. During the treatment of 1946 not a single sector showed absence of "prebait take" in *all* manholes, though in 11 sectors "prebait takes" were recorded in only 5 (or less) manholes, out of an average total of 70 manholes per sector.

Based upon reasonable assumptions that no poison prejudice has been created in the rat population during recent years, and that recording of prebait take has been consistent over the years, the interpretation to be placed upon the statistics can only be that there has been a continuous reduction of the sewer rat population. This reduction appears to have been gradual between the years 1944-46 but substantial during 1946. It is difficult to account for what would appear to be a very high proportionate "kill" due to the 1946 treatments, as compared with similar treatments in previous years.

One possible theory is that in 1944 and 1945 rats existed in the sewers in such numbers as to leave a surplus rat population which could not be eliminated owing to the number of baiting points being limited to the number of manholes. If this were the case, it is possible that the 1944 and 1945 treatments reduced the rat population to the *optimum* figure for treatment by means of the available baiting points. This would account for the apparently sudden high proportionate kill after the 1946 treatment, which is reflected in the 1947 treatment statistics.

DISINFESTATION—INSECT PESTS.

One operator is employed on disinfestation of premises found to be infested with vermin. Notices are served on the owners or occupiers of the premises, in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, where informal action produces no response, and work is executed on their behalf, by the operator, if requested.

Double spraying of 5 per cent. D.D.T. solution is employed for the eradication of bed bugs, with excellent results. A 10 per cent. D.D.T. powder is applied by means of a dust blower for the destruction of cockroaches, and results have been fairly satisfactory, though it has not proved to be the complete answer to a problem which has been concerning entomologists for a long time. A trial was made during the year with A.F. 35 emulsion, a newly-devised D.D.T. emulsion which has had considerable success in practical experiments by its inventor. Results in the Wallasey experiment were satisfactory within the limits of the experiment, but use of the emulsion is restricted in house property owing to a limitation on the surface areas which can be covered if walls and ceilings are not to be stained.

Extent of work carried out during 1947 is indicated in the following statistics :

No. of complaints received	..	..	..	..	214
No. of visits made	..	..	..	..	914
No. of premises sprayed on two occasions	..	..			182
No. of premises disinfested by owners or occupiers	..				7
No. of statutory notices served	..	..	..		2
Fees received	..	..	..	..	£188 4s. 6d.

CAMPING LICENCES.

No. of licences relating to sites issued during 1947	..				6
No. of licences relating to sites refused during 1947	..				—
No. of cases of unlicensed camping detected	..	..			3
Tents and structures removed under notice	..	..			19
No. of visits to unlicensed land	..	..	..		175
No. of visits to licensed land	..	..	..	..	169
Inspections of structures	..	..	..	..	1,298
Nuisances abated after notice	..	..	..	..	38

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

Visits to premises	..	..	..	..	..	30
Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	14
Stables : manure pits cleansed		..	..	..	..	6
Stables : manure pits repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	13

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No. of observations (1) formal half-hourly	..	..	..	..	36
(2) casual	..	..	..	..	32
Visits to boiler-houses	..	..	..	..	55
Interviews in connection with smoke abatement	..	..	..	..	53
Smoke nuisance abated	..	..	..	..	3
Grit emissions abated	..	..	..	..	1
Major improvements to boiler plant effected	..	..	..	..	1

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

	Visits	Notices served	Nuisances detected
Schools	44	—	32
Cinemas, dance-halls, etc.	38	5	8
Sub-let rooms	460	—	25
Public conveniences	71	—	8
Local Land Charges (Search)	1,455	—	—
Visits re building permits	1,583	—	—
Measurements of rooms for permitted numbers	82	—	—
Interviews with building contractors	269	—	—
Chlorine tests of swimming pools	16	—	—
Offensive trades	7	1	3

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALLASEY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1947

II
STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer
DR. R. B. BERRY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant School Medical Officer

DR. A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 1/1/47).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers

DR. M. J. T. LEITCH, M.B., Ch.B., M.M.S.A., D.C.H.

DR. E. J. O'Reilly, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (Appointed 1/7/47).

DR. L. H. MORONEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Temporary appointment terminated 30/6/47).

Senior School Dental Surgeon

MR. C. J. LUYA, L.D.S.

Assistant School Dental Surgeons

MR. W. A. HENDERSON, L.D.S.

MR. E. G. MASON, L.D.S.

Dental Attendants.

MISS A. M. BARBER.

„ B. M. SCOTT.

MRS. E. M. BROWNE.

Visiting Specialists

DR. W. D. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.O.M.S. (Ophthalmic).

DR. R. J. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.L.O. (Ear, Nose and Throat).

DR. H. DAVIES, M.B., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Orthopaedic).

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse

MRS. A. PARKINSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif.

Health Visitor/School Nurse

MISS R. M. QUINTON, Certif. R.S.I.

„ L. M. VANCE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif.

„ B. JACKSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif.

„ E. A. TEGGINS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif.

„ H. DEAVALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif. (Resigned 31/3/47).

„ A. KEAN, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Part 1). H.V.Certif.

„ I. Banks, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Part 1), H.V.Certif. (Resigned 20/12/47).

„ A. J. EDGE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif.

„ C. E. MURRELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Certif. (Appointed 1/9/47).

School Nurse

MISS E. W. NICHOLLS, Certif. R.S.I.

Psychiatrist

DR. MARY C. LYDON, D.P.M. (Part-time) (Appointed 1/7/47).

Consultant Psychiatrist

DR. MURIEL B. HALL, M.D., M.B., Ch.B. (To 30/6/47).

Educational Psychologist

MISS M. PROCTER, B.A.

Social Worker

MRS. U. BARRETT-LENNARD (Diploma in Social Science).

Physiotherapists

MISS N. V. CULLOTY, (C.S.P.)

MRS. L. M. GREGSON, (C.S.P.)

Speech Therapists

MRS. M. PEEL, (L.C.S.T.). Part-time. (Resigned July 1947).

MISS K. MCAULAY LANG, (L.C.S.T.). Full-time (Appointed 1/9/47).

Administrative Staff.

MR. S. D. LAWSON.

MISS J. M. NELSON.

MRS. M. FRANCE.

Town Hall,
WALLASEY.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Education Committee.

June, 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Report on the work of the School Medical Department for 1947.

The Report this year includes remarks by Dr. Thomson, dealing with the first year in which he has been in direct personal contact with all activities of the Service and, as stated in last year's Report, constant re-organisation and revision of the Service have been in progress. It is doubtful if more can be done until proper accommodation is available. The fullest possible use is made of all accommodation available, and many of the important Clinics, e.g. Remedial Exercises, Speech Therapy, are carried out under the greatest difficulty, in premises quite unsuitable, and great credit is due to the workers in those sections for the extremely good work they are able to accomplish.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to increase the School Nursing Staff by one, as it was quite impossible to devote sufficient attention to the question of cleanliness in schools with the staff available. A recommendation of the Health Committee that in view of that Committee's responsibility for the Dental Treatment of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children of pre-school age, the School Dental Service be used, on terms to be arranged, to provide Dental Treatment for children under 5 years of age who are not attending primary schools maintained by the Council, was also approved. In order to carry this into effect the recommendation of the Health Committee that an additional Dentist and Dental Attendant be appointed, and a further Dental Clinic equipped, was also approved, the cost to be allocated on a 50 per cent. basis between the Health and Education Committees. Before this appointment can be proceeded with, the salaries of the School Dental Officers will, in my opinion, need revision.

With the exception of certain groups for which adequate provision is already made in special clinics, the responsibility for the treatment of school children in Hospitals in Merseyside has been freely accepted though the details of the financial agreement had not been completed at the end of the year.

Before the end of the present year the new "universal" Medical Service will be in operation, and it is difficult to foresee what the effect will be on the School Medical Service. I should like to see use made of the complete medical records of practically every school child in the area by those who are going to be responsible for their medical care after they have left school.

Acknowledgment must again be made of the willing co-operation of the Director of Education and his Staff and also of the assistance rendered by the Head Teachers. I would also like again to express my thanks to the members of the Committee for their interest in the work, and the sympathetic consideration given to any proposals I have put before them.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD B. BERRY,
School Medical Officer.

(*Dr. Thomson, Senior School Medical Officer reports as follows :—*)

ADMINISTRATION

At the commencement of the Winter term, the new medical card, approved by the Ministry, was introduced and with it began the attempt to centralise all record keeping in the School Medical Service. It was not possible to do this immediately due to various difficulties which are too well known to require repetition but briefly, they are :—unsuitable premises and shortage of material.

After considerable delay, filing cabinets were obtained and, at present, some semblance of order is beginning to show itself. All records relating to pupils have been withdrawn from schools and are now housed at the Central Clinic Liscard, and all other information relating to the children is gradually being sorted and filed with the routine inspection card. It will be some time before this is completed owing to the mass of material which has accumulated, much of it now completely useless, since it relates to children who are no longer in existence so far as the Service is concerned. It is hoped, however, that in the future it will be possible to find a complete record, of any child, contained in one envelope, thus dispensing with the present multitude of cards, files and time wasted in searching for information.

The clerical staff have been instructed in the action to be taken on receiving cards back from inspections and all cases requiring observation are now listed so that fewer children should be filed and subsequently overlooked when due for re-inspection. Similarly, reports received from specialists are noted and, where possible, immediate action is taken to have the case dealt with as soon as possible.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

These are carried out in the usual manner and no great difficulty is experienced in this connection apart from the customary difficulty of inspection rooms. These vary from satisfactory in some schools to very bad in others. There seems no hope of ever persuading anyone that improvement in this direction would mean an improvement in the work carried out.

OTHER INSPECTIONS

These are carried out by appointment at one or other of the clinics, the cases being brought to notice by various means. Judging by the number of parents who bring their children along there would appear to be an increasing demand for this type of service and one is impressed by the number of children who do have something wrong. Formerly, many children brought in this way were actually quite fit and their complaint existed only in the imagination of the parent. The conditions on which advice is now sought vary from a verruca on the foot to severe cardiac failure following upon some previous illness. Little enthusiasm is aroused in many parents by the suggestion in appropriate cases that the family doctor should be consulted or called in, probably owing to the financial obligation which will have to be met.

In connection with these inspections, it has been and is constantly being impressed upon all concerned that no child should be sent to see a specialist in the Authority's employment, without first

being seen by one of the School Medical Officers. This is essential both for administrative and medical reasons though many people seem to find this hard to understand. The only exception made is in the case of the Eye Specialist and here, the School Nurses, acting on broad principles laid down, may refer a child direct to the eye clinic.

MINOR AILMENTS

These continue to present themselves in great numbers though how many children ought to spend a morning off school for dressings it is difficult to say. Undoubtedly, in many cases, the most trifling conditions are merely made the excuse for having a morning off. The fact that, in Liscard, the Doctor is only there once a week is, I am sure, well known to the children and they know full well how to exploit such a situation to their own advantage. It is proposed, in the near future, to make some attempt at the Clinic end to deal with this so that fewer malingerers will attempt such action although it will never be abolished completely.

DEFECTS DISCOVERED

In examining large numbers of children I gather the impression that there are a large number of defective children in Wallasey, certainly more than in my previous experience. It is difficult to say why this should be since the various defects are in no way related to each other or to any common factor though many of them are, of course, old long-standing conditions which were never discovered previously due to the fact that for various reasons many of the children had not been medically examined or records had been lost or never transferred. These cases, and there are not a few, would swell the total and give a bad impression of the school population as a whole.

ORTHOPAEDIC DEFECTS

These, undoubtedly, head the list though, fortunately, most of these are of a minor nature and respond well to treatment. An attempt is now being made in co-operation with the P.T. organisation to prevent these cases developing but, as yet, it is too early to say what the result will be.

E.N.T.

The outstanding defects here are enlarged tonsils and adenoids and running ears. Treatment of tonsil cases is a never-ending problem due to lack of beds and lack of time on the part of consultants to see the cases. Ear cases are many and in the main are dealt with at the clinic with fairly good results so far as the acute conditions are concerned. It would simply aggravate the general position if these cases were sent to hospital since they would only lengthen the waiting period for consultations of all the other E.N.T. conditions.

EYES

Many children in the schools have never had a vision test as a result of only having had one medical examination and one is constantly observing bad defects in older children. At the present rate of medical examinations these children will never be tested until they reach the age of eleven years, when much preventable damage will have occurred. It is proposed to do a survey of all children up to eleven years of age in order to prevent this happening.

As regards other defects, much difficulty is experienced owing to the general shortage of accommodation in hospitals and institutions. Residential schooling seems to be almost impossible to obtain and not a few children are recommended for open-air day school for lack of anything better. This means, of course, that cases for open-air day school must remain in the ordinary schools.

The same applies to convalescent home cases. Such must go on the waiting list which, of course, in many cases, is detrimental to the child since they continue in their poor environment or return from hospital to it and so really lose the benefit of their hospital treatment. At the moment it is an insoluble problem.

It must not be thought from this brief summary of impressions gained at clinics and inspections that the school children of Wallasey are a collection of cripples and defects. The majority are, all things considered, generally in good health and remarkably fit. This fact is probably better illustrated by the statistics although since these have been compiled in a different manner on this occasion they will not be strictly comparable with previous years.

Two other matters call for special reference, namely deafness and infestation.

In view of the comparatively large number of running ears it is safe to assume that there must be a fair amount of partial deafness and one does every now and again come across a child who appears to be so, on rough testing. There is also in all probability some deafness originating from other causes though this won't amount to very much. I think as soon as *premises and staff can be organised* this should receive serious consideration.

INFESTATION

Owing to the staff being unable to carry out sufficient inspections the figures for this cannot be taken as accurate. Some schools show an infestation rate as high as 50 per cent. at some visits while some only show something like 1 or 2 per cent. It is hoped to improve on the inspections in 1948.

To sum up, I think that considering all the difficulties of the present we are making some progress in the service as a whole but of course these difficulties persist in impeding a smooth advancement. This even affects the approach and outlook of the Staff who are always wondering what the future holds and how the work will continue to be carried on in relation to other more recent legislation.

Dr. O'Reilly, Assistant School Medical Officer, makes the following comments :—

In the last term of 1947, a general impression was formed of the younger children only.

Their standard of cleanliness was considered high, in fact an obviously unwashed child is uncommon, and the average child is cleanly and neatly dressed.

The general behaviour of the children is more restrained than has been met with before, being less noisy and rough, probably due to families being smaller and the children being more "mothered," although in this connection should be noted the greater

frequency of slight psychological maladjustment. Also muscular development was below what was expected but on the other hand the general standard of nutrition was relatively high and no case of active rickets was discovered.

Cases of chronic bronchitis were few but cases of chronic nasal catarrh were very prevalent.

Although there are plenty of chronically diseased tonsils, none were seen looking like a pair of purple plums wedged in the pharynx, such as was met with daily in the forest of factory chimneys where the writer's previous experience was collected.

Few cardiac abnormalities were found and rheumatic trouble, acute and chronic, is quite rare.

Of the older children seen there were very few, if any, who had reached 15 years of age with all their teeth intact.

Dr. Leitch, Assistant School Medical Officer, makes the following comment :—

Recently I have been much gratified by the marked improvement in the stability and general deportment of the Junior School children and particularly in the excellent condition of their teeth, although appreciation of such a valuable asset on the part of these children and their mothers still leaves something to be desired.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK DONE AT THE ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS 1947

A further general increase in the attendances at the clinics has to be reported. It is significant that many more cases are now sent direct from the patients' private practitioners for advice and treatment, an indication of the growing part the local authorities are playing in the care and welfare of the children and the realisation of the comprehensive range of facilities provided at the clinics.

During the last year we had the epidemic of poliomyelitis and the majority of the cases in the town were under the supervision of the Orthopaedic Surgeon. Most of the cases could be classified as of the mild type which made a relatively quick recovery, but some permanent crippling is inevitable in the less fortunate cases and constant care and treatment at the clinics will be necessary.

Much interest has been focussed upon the spastic child throughout the year, and we have become associated with the National Council for the Welfare of Spastics. Its aim is to provide a central advisory co-ordinating and consultative body directed to the well-being and welfare of sufferers from spastic paralysis and its allied conditions.

A realisation of the very large numbers of postural conditions in the children of the Borough has stimulated further interest in the possibility of prevention of these errors. It was in my annual report of 1944 that I suggested the incorporation of remedial exercises in the general physical training curriculum of the schools. Little could be done however, during the war years, owing to the shortage of physical training instructors and teachers. The real necessity for this can be demonstrated most graphically by surveying the school lesson times lost by a pupil who has to attend the clinic and remedial classes at the various centres. The minimum time lost for one attendance is ninety minutes, and the average attendance is twice a week spread over approximately two school years, which is the usual time taken for correction of the average postural errors. This will add up to about 240 school hours lost for each pupil. It is no wonder that we get constant complaints both from parents and teachers of the interruption of the child's schooling.

Experimental classes incorporating special remedial exercises in the usual physical training lessons have now been started in some of the Wallasey schools under the supervision of the physical training instructors. I feel sure that the foundation for the real prevention of the vast numbers of the postural errors of childhood has now been laid and it is my intention that this scheme should be adopted in time by the majority of the schools, for I feel certain that it will yield encouraging results throughout the coming years.

REPORT OF Mr. HORACE DAVIES, Orthopaedic Surgeon.

Number of sessions held at the Authority's Clinics	..	..	44
Number of New Cases	..	..	442
Number of Re-examinations	..	..	913

	Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-examinations				Discharged				
		Pre-School Age		School Age		Pre-School Age		School Age		Cured	Relieved	Left District	Refused Treatment	Died
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Congenital Deformities	Trunk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
	Upper Limb	3	3	3	4	5	10	9	15	8	—	—	—	—
	Lower Limb	4	2	3	2	12	11	16	13	—	—	1	—	—
Acquired Deformities	Flat Foot	16	15	71	67	25	12	178	146	90	—	—	—	—
	Hallux Valgus	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—
	Postural Kyphosis and Scoliosis }	—	—	2	7	1	1	31	29	14	—	—	—	—
	Knock Knee	33	16	11	15	31	30	19	30	16	—	—	—	—
	Bow Leg	12	8	1	10	9	10	11	4	5	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions	14	16	29	28	11	19	79	57	32	—	—	—	—
Affections of Skeleton	Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Nervous System	Spastic Paralysis	1	2	1	—	1	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
	Infantile Paralysis }	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Peripheral	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Nerve Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Bones	Other Conditions	4	2	4	4	3	7	13	12	2	—	—	—	—
	Osteomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Joints	T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	Non-T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—
Affections of Spine	T.B.	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Non-T.B.	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Epiphyses		—	—	2	—	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of soft tissues		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Complications of Trauma		1	—	7	6	—	—	4	7	1	—	—	—	—
Cases referred to Clinic and found normal		—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—

PHYSIO-THERAPISTS REPORT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1947.

CLASSIFICATION MONTHLY ATTENDANCES TOTAL

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<i>Cases</i> REMEDIAL EXS. ...	225	153	218	220	264	226	263	35	210	244	301	263	
<i>Attend:</i>	716	431	883	696	1142	1270	1229	86	740	843	1495	857	10,388
<i>Cases</i> ASTHMA. ...	16	16	15	16	17	17	19	—	23	25	25	24	
<i>Attend:</i>	77	97	129	92	135	167	182	—	162	94	241	166	1,542
<i>Cases</i> TONSILS AND A. ...	6	3	3	3	13	19	22	6	11	6	4	9	
<i>Attend:</i>	20	3	4	7	48	101	101	13	32	18	17	22	386
<i>Cases</i> U.V.R. ...	41	11	35	43	42	38	43	14	53	36	37	36	
<i>Attend:</i>	217	38	169	188	237	271	218	41	255	219	204	153	2,210
OBSERVATIONS ONLY.	16	6	10	—	14	7	10	1	3	3	4	4	78
SHOE ALTERATIONS ONLY	5	6	6	2	19	7	10	4	6	10	5	7	87
												Total	14,691
NEW CASES	60	34	47	17	73	30	54	10	32	39	43	28	467
DISCHARGES	19	11	10	11	37	24	25	13	28	29	20	30	257

TOTAL ORTHOPAEDIC CASES ... 1,447 NEW CASES ... 467
 TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES ... 14,691 DISCHARGES ... 257

SPEECH THERAPIST'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER, 1947

A full-time Speech Therapist was appointed in September, 1947, and as a result, the service has been considerably extended with the opening of several new clinics, and an increase in the number of patients undergoing treatment.

Lists of those children believed to be in need of Speech Therapy were requested from all the schools in Wallasey, and all these children were given the opportunity to attend for interview. Of those children who did attend, 141 were accepted for immediate treatment: 29 of these had had some treatment previously. The names of 50 other children who suffered from less severe speech defects were placed on a waiting list, to be accepted as vacancies occur.

The majority of the patients have attended regularly each week, and have co-operated well. Progress has been on the whole quite satisfactory.

STATISTICS

No. of patients attending Speech Clinic by December, 1947	141
No. of patients with severe articulatory defect	30
" " " " " " " "	
—combined with stammering	5
—combined with other speech defect	6
No. of patients with slight articulatory defect	33
" " " " " " " "	
—combined with stammering	6
—combined with other speech defect	5
No. of patients with defects of tone	3
No. of patients with cleft palates	1
No. of stammerers	48
Other defects—e.g. dysarthria	4
	141
No. discharged cured pending 3-monthly follow-up ..	6
No. discharged due to non-attendance	2
No. left school	1
No. left Wallasey	1
No. suspended temporarily for various reasons ..	3
Total No. of attendances in term	929
No. on waiting list	43

WORK OF THE PSYCHIATRIC DEPARTMENT CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

There have been twenty-seven sessions beginning on 2nd July, 1947. Thirty-nine children have been seen for diagnosis. These have been referred for pilfering, lying, truanting, wandering, enuresis, tics, habit spasms, excessive shyness, exhibitionism, etc. Twenty-one referred have come from the School Medical Dept. and eighteen from the School Education Dept. Of these, disposal has been as follows :—

- 20 for psychiatric treatment.
 - 1 referred Speech Therapist. (Closed).
 - 2 educationally sub-normal. (Closed having been recommended for special school treatment).
 - 1 sent to an Approved School. (Closed).
 - 2 recommended for convalescent treatment through the School M.O.
 - 3 normal not requiring treatment.
 - 2 recommended for Nursery Schools. (Vacancies promised).
 - 3 needed but declined to have psychiatric treatment.
 - 1 the Court has taken out of our hands. Still needs psychiatric treatment.
 - 3 special coaching from Educational Psychologist, in school subjects.
 - 1 referred to Social worker for re-education of Mother.

Of the twenty recommended psychiatric treatment fourteen are still current, many of them having been seen only two or three times and others are awaiting vacancies. Two have been closed very much improved, one has been sent to an Approved School and two are now being closed, their problems having cleared up. Some of the remaining cases now having treatment will take a considerable length of time and in the meantime most of the diagnostic sessions yield at least one case needing treatment.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL DENTIST

The year 1947 was the first year since 1939 that the Service has had the opportunity of operating under something like normal conditions, and with its full staff of three full-time Dental Officers and three full-time Attendant Secretaries.

Conditions were much improved earlier in the year when a third fully equipped surgery was, after much difficulty and delay, put into service at "Thornville," which made it possible for all three Dental Officers to be working in Wallasey at the same time. Unhappily, the Dental Clinic still lacks a recovery room, and as there is no more space available, "Thornville" can never be operated with real efficiency.

The new Education Act in 1947 added two new groups of children to the number of those entitled to treatment at the Dental Clinic, all children attending Secondary Schools and those staying on for the extra year at all other schools. This extra year is an excellent thing from the School Dental Officers point of view. The longer a

child receives regular dental attention, the better are the ultimate results. Medical and Dental inspection was made compulsory under the Act, and a regulation was made that an opportunity must be given for parents to attend the first dental inspection of an infant child.

A complete new system of inspection for infant children had to be devised to allow for the parents being present, and it was feared that the extra time necessary would make serious inroads into the time available for treatment, time which was becoming the more precious with the addition of the extra children from the groups already referred to. It is proposed to give the system devised in some detail, as it may possibly help other Dental Officers still wrestling with this problem.

A member of the Clerical staff is sent to the school it is proposed to examine some ten days in advance of the examination date, and makes a complete list of the names of the children to be examined. A notice to the parent giving time and date is made out, and at the moment about seventeen children and parents are notified for each half hour available, and the Clerk's list is marked to show the appointment times.

The notices to parents are sent down to the school for the Head Teacher to distribute to the children two days before the examination date, with a request that the children take them home.

When the examination starts at the school, the Clerk collects the children whose parents have been notified for the first half hour, at the time marked on their notice. Experience has shown that those parents who intend to be present will be there on time. The children with parents are examined first, after them the children whose parents have not turned up. The same process goes on at the beginning of the next half hour and continues to the end of the day. It has been found possible to inspect something like fifty to sixty children per session in this manner. It is a good deal less than the number that could be inspected under the old system, but rather more than the present writer expected to be able to inspect with parents present.

It is decidedly an improvement to have parents present at inspection—the ability to talk and answer questions is very valuable, and much time at the Clinic is saved by being able, at inspection, to decide for what purpose the first appointment is to be made. It is also possible at inspection to divide the attending sheep from the non-attending goats.

This leads quite naturally on to the subject of the new National Dental Record Card. Doubtless, every Dental Officer using his own pet card curses this innovation heartily, but a standard card was long overdue. The diversity of Record Cards was so great that the records of one Borough were incomprehensible to the next, and that was a bad thing. The Wallasey Dental Service has put the card into use for all infant examinations, and in the course of years the old record should gradually disappear. It is to be hoped, at the same time, that cabinets to fit the new card will start to appear. The present writer's criticism of the card is that there is no large blank space suitable for the diagrams, sketches and scrawled notes to which he is partial.

The new Act also brought the children at the Secondary Schools within the scope of the service. This meant a very large number of children of the older age groups were entitled to treatment, and those of an age where acceptance of treatment is high and the treatment itself sometimes of a fairly elaborate nature. It did away with what was a very unfair situation—the case of a parent who had regularly attended the Clinic, but whose child failed to win a scholarship to a Secondary School. These children, if the parent decided to make the effort and send them as fee-paying pupils were automatically debarred from continuing to make use of the School Dental Service. That unsatisfactory situation is now at an end.

Opportunity was taken during the year to carry out dental inspections at all the Secondary Schools in the Borough, with a view to getting some idea as to the possible need for the Dental Service in the Secondary Schools generally. The results were most interesting, the standard of dental fitness, both natural and artificial, was very high in all the schools examined, and experience has shown that it is most unusual to find a very badly neglected mouth in a Secondary School, or indeed any other school child of the more intelligent type. Indeed a very poor type of dentition is rarely seen in the mouth of the more brilliant type of child, and a monograph on the subject of “The type of dentition as related to the standard of Intelligence” might be written by someone who has time to carry out the necessary research.

Generally speaking, there seems to have been improvement in the condition of the teeth of school children ; it is most marked in the youngest age groups,—the five year and six year olds, but the teeth of the older children are in better condition than they used to be before 1939. The acceptance rate remains high, and the system whereby the “good” patients receive special attention continues to work well. This system has been in operation in the Wallasey School Dental Service for a good many years. It is interesting to note that a section of the new National Dental Record Card is devoted to recording this type of case.

REPORT ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION—1947

Miss E. A. Gee, C.S.P. (Infants' and Girls). Mr. C. D. Clare (Boys).

Inadequate facilities for Physical Education continue to make it impossible to develop the work upon the progressive lines that both teachers and organisers of Physical Education would wish. It was in the Primary Schools where the greatest difficulties were encountered. In many of these schools the hall was furnished and used as a classroom owing to the increase in the school population, and these conditions made it impossible for lessons to be taken in wet or cold weather. In the few schools where a hall was available, with one exception it was found impossible to work barefooted owing to the condition of the floor surface.

INFANTS AND GIRLS

During the latter part of 1946 a revised scheme of Physical Education was introduced into all Infants' Schools in the Borough, and during 1947 some satisfactory results of the work became

evident. The approach to the work was of a freer nature and the exercises of a more natural type than those practised in the past. Emphasis was put upon the inclusion in every lesson of special foot exercises in an endeavour to prevent the occurrence of foot defects. Included in the scheme are exercises to train relaxation. The need has long been felt for some means of exercising strongly the muscles of arm and shoulder as well as the big muscle groups of the trunk, a need which the country child easily satisfies by climbing and hanging on trees, from which activities the town child is deprived. As an experiment in an effort to fulfil this need, various types of climbing and hanging apparatus were introduced into six schools, and the children soon acquired amazing agility, courage and increasing muscle strength by their use. The essential feature in the approach to the use of this new apparatus was that the children were left to devise their own activities while the teacher kept a watchful eye, encouraging the efforts of the timid and giving guidance to any child who required it. These experiments are continuing and work on similar lines has been introduced into the Junior Departments.

In the Secondary Schools the most marked development was evident in games and the introduction of private transport for girls on one afternoon each week during the summer months made it possible for additional children from the more populated areas to enjoy the delightful facilities available at Leasowe Road Playing Field. The use of the Oval Cricket Ground during the winter months was another valuable addition to the limited playing fields of the Borough, and the means by which hockey was introduced successfully into three additional schools. Inter-school matches were participated in by an increased number of teams, and the winter and summer seasons concluded with Netball and Rounders Rallies.

The large measure of warm and sunny weather during the summer months reinforced the traditional interest and keenness in swimming and the introduction of limited winter swimming was tried as an experiment. The results were such that it is hoped to extend the privilege to a gradually increasing number of children.

BOYS

The present Organiser of Physical Education having been appointed in September, this report deals only with the period September to December, 1947. In the preliminary survey, it was evident that lack of accommodation and facilities were chiefly responsible for the low standard of work in schools. Teachers and boys are keen, but unless pleasant, clean surroundings, adequate equipment, and suitable clothing and changing facilities are provided, this enthusiasm will ebb.

Postural defects, especially of the feet and the antero-posterior curves of the spine are common. Preventive and remedial exercises to combat these defects have been incorporated in Secondary School work, and a course for teachers is in progress. The full effect of such work; however, cannot be achieved until—(a) floors are suitable for work in bare feet and in the prone and supine positions; (b) an adequate amount of suitable footwear and clothing for Physical Education is received (coupon allocation for 1948 has suffered a further 10 per cent cut); and (c) proper changing and washing accommodation are provided.

Professional Coaches of the Football Association have again given instruction in the schools, the Football Association continuing to bear the cost. Inter-school leagues have been revived but football is still suffering from lack of equipment, especially boots, jerseys and shorts and from lack of suitable playing fields within easy reach of the schools.

Negotiations are in progress for increasing facilities for swimming and for more extensive use of private transport between schools, Leasowe Road Playing Field and Guinea Gap Baths. Schools are also being encouraged to continue swimming and life saving instruction throughout the winter.

ELLERAY PARK OPEN-AIR COUNCIL SCHOOL

No. of Children on Roll—1st Jan., 1947	..	..	..	93
No. of Children admitted during the above period	..	..	..	25
No. of Children who have left during the above period	..	..	..	25
No. of Children on Roll at 31st December., 1947	..	..	..	93

MEDICAL INSPECTION, 1947

MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

TABLE I.

(A) PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS :—

Entrants	1610
Second Age Group	1350
Third Age Group	541
	<hr/>
	3501
	<hr/>
Other Periodic Inspections	—

(B) OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	*1488
Number of Re-Inspections	398

* (Includes 131 Pupils examined in connection with the issue of employment cards or entertainment licences).

(C) PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding dental diseases and infestation with vermin).

Group	For Defective Vision (Excluding Squint)	For any of the other Conditions Recorded in Table IIA	Total Individual Pupils
(a) Entrants ..	8	220	184
(b) Second Age Group	58	190	223
(c) Third Age Group ..	59	87	139
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total (A)-(C)	125	497	546
Other Periodic Inspections	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total	125	497	546

TABLE II.

(B) Classification of the General Conditions of Children Inspected during the year in the Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants ..	1610	1018	63.23	538	33.42	54	3.35
Second Age Group ..	1350	447	33.11	816	60.44	87	6.45
Third Age Group ..	541	245	45.29	266	49.17	30	5.54
Other Periodic Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3501	1710	—	1620	—	171	—

TABLE III.—TREATMENT TABLES.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

Group I. MINOR AILMENTS.

(Excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.)

(a)	No. of Defects Treated or under Treatment During the Year.
Skin—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	—
(i) X-Ray Treatment	1
(ii) Other Treatment	1
Ringworm—Body—	32
Scabies	32
Impetigo	90
Other Skin Diseases	462
Eye Disease	160
(External and other, but excluding errors of Refraction, Squint, and cases admitted to Hospital)	
Ear Defects	218
(Excluding Treatment for Serious Diseases of the Ear)	
Miscellaneous (Minor Injuries, Sores, etc.)	2039
Total	3035

(b)

Total Number of Attendances at Authority's Minor Ailments Clinics 10114

TABLE II.

A.

Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended 31st December, 1947.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not Requiring Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not Requiring Treatment
Skin	26	24	149	20
Eyes—(a) Vision	125	34	20	2
(b) Squint	27	29	6	1
(c) Other	18	16	52	4
Ears—(a) Hearing	18	14	25	4
(b) Otitis Media	9	6	29	4
(c) Other	54	20	115	30
Nose and Throat	91	269	214	33
Speech	12	29	12	1
Cervical Glands	8	101	38	14
Heart and Circulation	3	41	19	12
Lungs	8	47	62	19
Developmental—				
(a) Hernia	9	25	6	—
(b) Other	4	27	6	3
Orthopaedic—				
(a) Posture	50	24	3	—
(b) Flat Foot	91	31	26	—
(c) Other	37	53	71	4
Nervous System—				
(a) Epilepsy	1	3	2	1
(b) Other	—	17	35	8
Psychological—				
(a) Development	—	17	10	2
(b) Stability	2	18	10	2
Other	29	44	359	55

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

(Excluding Eye Disease Treated as Minor Ailments—Group I)

				No. of Defects Dealt With
Errors of Refraction (Including Squint) .. .. .	..	..	..	357
Other Disease or Defect of the Eyes .. .. .	..	..	..	4
(Excluding those Recorded in Group I.)				
Operations for Squint .. .. .	..	..	..	—
				361
No. of Pupils for whom Spectacles were (a) Prescribed .. .. .	..	..	..	357
" " " " " " " (b) Obtained .. .. .	..	..	..	357

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Received Operative Treatment—	Total Treated
(a) For Adenoids and Chronic Tonsillitis	156
(b) For other Nose and Throat Conditions	—
Received other Forms of Treatment	13
Total	169

TREATMENT FOR SERIOUS DISEASES OF THE EAR.

	Total Treated
(a) Received Operative or other Treatment as Hospital In-Patients	20
(b) Received Operative or other Treatment as Hospital Out-Patients	4
Total	24

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(a) No. Treated as In-Patients in Hospitals or Hospital Schools	42
(b) No. Treated Otherwise	1447

**GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND
SPEECH THERAPY.**

No. of Pupils Treated (a) Under Child Guidance Arrangements	42
„ „ „ „ (b) Under Speech Therapy Arrangements	141

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) No. of Pupils Inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—	
(a) Periodic Age Groups	7766
(b) Specials	819
Total of (a) and (b)	8585
(2) Number Found to Require Treatment	4510
(3) Number Actually Treated	3313
(4) Attendances made by Pupils for Treatment	6383
(5) Half-days Devoted to (a) Inspection	107
(b) Treatment —	1267
Total (a) and (b)	1374

(6) Fillings :	Permanent teeth	..	..	..	..	2397
	Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	51
				Total		2448
(7) Extractions :	Permanent Teeth	..	..	..	..	1009
	Temporary Teeth	..	..	..	..	3591
				Total		4600
(8) Administration of General Anaesthetics for Extraction		..				2592
(9) Other Operations :	(a) Permanent Teeth		..	..		855
	(b) Temporary Teeth	..	..	..		—
				Total (a) and (b)		855

TABLE V.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN**Infestation**

The intention was to carry out at least one inspection per term but, as already stated, this was not possible. The procedure adopted is one of inspection and where vermin are found, to advise the parent on the method to adopt in cleansing the child. This is coupled with supervision until the child is quite clean.

In a few isolated cases cleansing has been undertaken at the Clinic by the School Nurse. This system was found quite adequate to cope with the numbers found during the year.

- (i) Total Number of Examinations in the Schools by School Nurses or other Authorised Persons 19323
- (ii) Total Number of Individual Pupils found to be Infested.. 1246
- (iii) Number of Individual Pupils in Respect of whom Cleansing Notices were issued under Sec. 54(2) Education Act. —
- (iv) Number of Individual Pupils in Respect of whom Cleansing Orders were issued under Sec. 54(3) Education Act. —

